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Legion

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August 2020 • Vol. 189, No. 2



Derek, left, and Cory Boyd Photo courtesy Derek Boyd

'YOU'VE GOT TO GET THIS FLAG UP'

When Cory Boyd saw the video of a U.S. flag burning outside American Legion Post 282 in La Mesa, Calif., he grabbed a flag from home and rode 20 minutes on his motorcycle to get the Stars and Stripes flying again.

Following a peaceful Black Lives Matter protest, rioters had set the flag on fire. The sight of it in flames atop the pole "hit me in a different spot," Cory said. "I felt like somebody needed to show that it's OK to be proud of that flag, proud to be an American."

Riding over, he told himself, "You have to do this ... you've got to get this flag up." His brother Derek, a Marine Corps veteran, supplied a new rope, and Cory climbed 60 feet to connect it.

After the two men raised the flag, cheers erupted from volunteers at Post 282 and the La Mesa Police Station, who were cleaning up graffiti and glass from broken windows.

Derek's video of Cory climbing the flagpole went viral, getting more than 2.5 million views.

American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford sent certificates of appreciation and commander's coins for Post 282 Commander Jack Porath to present to the Boyd brothers at a post meeting. Photo courtesy Derek Boyd



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The first world war began the U.S. Cavalry's long goodbye.

By Albert D. Manchester

The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its nearly 2 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 12,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR Henry Howard
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MANAGING EDITOR Laura Edwards
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Julie Campbell
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR Katherine Chrisman
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Steven B. Brooks
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR Cameron Richardson
DISPATCH EDITOR Andy Proffert
ASSISTANT WEB EDITOR Holly K. Soria
VISUAL TEAM MANAGER Celesta Török-Lee
MEDIA DESIGN SPECIALIST Ben Mikesell
VISUAL MEDIA SPECIALIST Tony Heath
PRODUCTION MANAGER Alan W. Dowd
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

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ADVERTISING MANAGER Diane Andretti
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CONTACT The American Legion Magazine
P.O. Box 7068
Indianapolis, IN 46207

ADVERTISING SALES

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Indianapolis, IN 46206
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'We Will Get Through This ...'

Congratulations to National Commander Bill Oxford, and the magazine editors and staff, for a great June 2020 edition of *The American Legion Magazine*. Many uplifting articles, and a good reminder of how the Legion has always been steadfast and resolute in its response during America's most difficult times. Getting people back to work, despite the risks, is our greatest national task (Commander's Message), and the Legion must lead the way. Proud to be a member, and thanks for all your good work.

— Retired Army Maj. Gen. William M. Matz,
Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission

'Dark Clouds, Silver Linings'

One day, when the virus has been solved, we will realize we have come through World War III. The soldiers are different, but they have been called upon to play a major role in the battle for survival. On the front lines are first responders who bring the enemy combatants inside bodies to hospitals, where there are doctors, nurses, technicians, aides, cooks, janitors and police. There will be no Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars or Medals of Honor awarded, but they are still worthy of praise.

Thanks to Alan W. Dowd for the article (June), and let us all salute those who must continue to work despite the dangers their jobs present to themselves and their families. When people ask "Who was that masked man?", we will shout in unison, "All of us!"

— Edward E. Hale, Chicago

'Portrait of the Artist as a D-Day Soldier'

What an awesome story Jeff Stoffer wrote on Ugo Giannini's D-Day invasion experiences (June). We noncombat vets cannot possibly know what it would be like to go through something like that.

— Edwin R. Clayton Sr., Port Orange, Fla.

As a former editor of a 52,000-circulation daily newspaper, I appreciate good writing. That said, I want to compliment Jeff Stoffer on the first installment of his Ugo Giannini story. It is, in my opinion, the best writing I have seen in this magazine.

— Bob Slater, St. Joseph, Mo.

As I read Jeff Stoffer's article, I recalled the caricature portrait of my father produced by one of his comrades during World War II. Even though my father



Courtesy Robert R. LeBreux

did not participate in the D-Day invasion (he was recovering from malaria), he did serve in the Battle of the Bulge. I thought the caricature might be a product of Ugo Giannini, but when I pulled it out, I could see this was not the case.

My father was the company clerk in his unit (Company G, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division). In his downtime or late at night, he would crank out reports on his typewriter. The sketch shows him sitting on a crate of C-rations doing just that.

I wonder how many other of these impromptu sketches are still out there, undiscovered or discarded along the way. My father managed to safely bring his home from war-torn Europe, yet he seldom showed it. He never was one to speak much about himself. Dad retired as a chief master sergeant from the New Hampshire Air National Guard in 1982 and died in 2001.

I encourage everyone in possession of such hand-drawn mementoes to share them.

— Robert R. LeBreux, Londonderry, N.H.

'In the Zone'

I thoroughly enjoyed Keith Nightingale's article on the Panama Canal (June). I spent three years in Panama at U.S. Southern Command in the late '80s, and came to love Panama. (I also have a copy of one of the stock certificates for the canal.) Even Noriega's dictatorship didn't diminish my enjoyment.

— R. Stephen Bloch, Carmel Valley, Calif.

The short article on The American Legion in Panama was great. I was stationed at Albrook Air Force Station from June 1969 to June 1975 on the Pacific side of the canal, separated from the military, and went to work for the Panama Canal Commission from 1975 to 1990. I was a member of American Legion Post 1 most of that time.

The main article was a great article and lesson from history. Entities like The American Legion and the Panama Canal will live on forever, because they are based on solid values, hard work and dedicated people. Working on the canal was the best job I ever had, in or out of the USA.

— James L. Mize, Casselberry, Fla.

I thoroughly enjoyed Keith Nightingale's article about how the strength of America's spirit fueled the building of the Panama Canal. What caught my eye was the quote from John Keegan, who described our ethos as "masculine, pervasive, unrelenting." How true, but politically incorrect, to describe America's ethos as "masculine." My fear is that our national

ethos has been emasculated, described by many of our self-described elites as "toxic." In this new environment, it's doubtful we could muster the will to do anything as great as building the Panama Canal.

— Paul J. Perrone, Springfield, Va.

High praise

Some issues of the magazine are memorable. Some are inspirational. Then there is the June 2020 issue. It is a keeper. It is a reference source. I do not think a single previous issue contained so much necessary information as this one. Thank you one, and thank you all. A superb issue.

— Silvio J. Romero, San Antonio, Fla.

I read 40 or more books every year. Magazines, not so much. I subscribe to two and read only what interests me. But I pick up *The American Legion Magazine* and read it from cover to cover. Interesting, informative, funny and well-written.

— George Briney, Long Beach, Calif.

My husband's *American Legion Magazine* just arrived, and he reached for it when I sorted the mail. I pulled it back and said, "You can't have it until I read the jokes on the back page, just like when I was a kid!"

I am 67. For as long as I can remember, every month I would read the jokes in the back of Daddy's magazine, and for years my husband has received one.

Thank you for allowing me to carry on the tradition. God bless, and keep up the good work.

— Sherrie Hanes, Herrin, Ill.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing. Due to the volume of mail received, not every letter can be acknowledged.

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Unequal treatment violates nation's highest values

Many high-profile events pertaining to race and law enforcement have rocked this country to its core in recent months. For those of us who have served in the military, and who now serve our communities in The American Legion, the tension has been especially difficult to comprehend.

The American Legion stands on principles and serves purposes that are violated when justice, freedom and democracy are not applied equally, regardless of race, color, creed, gender or class. These principles formed the foundation of the organization over a century ago, in a very different and deeply divided time in U.S. society. As our nation grieves and tries to reconcile the unconscionable deaths of African-American citizens George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, retired St. Louis Police Department Capt. David Dorn, Federal Protective Services officer Patrick Underwood and others, The American Legion remains firm in a value it has upheld, in the form of a national resolution, since 1923:

WHEREAS, The fundamental law of our country guarantees to all peoples equal rights and equal opportunities and the right to worship their God as they see fit; and ...

WHEREAS, Membership of The American Legion is made up of those who served our country in a time of great national stress, without distinction as to race, color, creed or class; and ...

RESOLVED, ...That we consider any individual, group of individuals, or organizations, which creates, or fosters racial, religious or class strife among our people, or which takes into their own hands the enforcement of law, determination of guilt, or infliction of punishment, to be un-American, a menace to our liberties, and destructive to our fundamental law; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we consider such actions by any individual, groups, or organizations, to be inconsistent with the ideals and purposes of The American Legion.

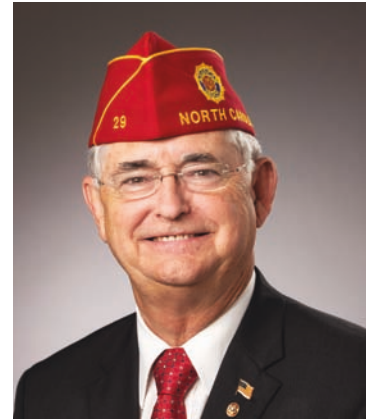
This resolution's place in The American Legion's conscience is so timeless that it was reaffirmed, in full, at the organization's 99th National Convention in 2017.

Throughout its history, The American Legion has fought to improve racial equality not only for veterans, but for the communities they serve. In 1919, African-American veterans of World War I were among the organization's founders who adopted a mission statement – the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution – that pledges among other things “to maintain law and order,” “promote peace and goodwill on earth” and “safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.”

Where the law has been broken, justice must be served. Where freedom has been denied, it must be returned without prejudice. Our nation has much to consider as we continue to strive toward a shared goal found in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag: “with liberty and justice for all.”

All means all. Anything less than complete equality in the application of these values today is as un-American now as it was in 1923.

James W. "Bill" Oxford



National Commander
James W. "Bill" Oxford

MEMORANDA

"FOUNDING VALUE, LONG MARCH FOR EQUALITY"

An article on The American Legion's national website explores the organization's history of working to improve equality in the United States.

legion.org/library

TANGO ALPHA LIMA

What happens when three post-9/11 veterans walk into their podcast studios? Timely conversation, revelry, and hot takes about topics of interest to veterans and the military community. Meet the co-hosts, and listen to and/or watch all episodes, at legion.org/tangoalphalima.

PURPLE HEART DAY

Aug. 7 is Purple Heart Day. On that date in 1782, George Washington established the Badge for Military Merit – forerunner of the Purple Heart. The award we know today was created in 1932, the bicentennial of Washington's birth. The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor estimates that roughly 1.8 million Purple Hearts have been awarded. If you do not have a Purple Heart or any other medal that you or a loved one earned, archives.gov has information on how to request one.

A FOUNDATION OF **HOPE**

FOR DISABLED VETERANS



**I was about to give up...
I wouldn't have known where to go.**

*Korean War Army veteran Willie Alvin Cousin,
who received long-overdue and wrongly denied
VA disability benefits after his case was reopened
and won by American Legion Department
Service Officer K. Robert Lewis*

FOR MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILIES IN NEED



**These were important things.
It helped them not get behind
in their rent... It helped them
put food in the refrigerator.**

*Coast Guard Vice Commandant Adm. Charlie Ray
after American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance
helped more than 3,120 children whose active-duty families
were affected by the federal government shutdown*



Your gift provides hope for disabled veterans and children in need.

The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation, formerly the American Legion Endowment Fund, delivers vital financial support for service officers worldwide who are working on VA disability claims for more than 700,000 U.S. military veterans at any one time, all the time. The fund also supplies American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance cash grants for military and veteran families with minor children at home, who have encountered hardships beyond their control and need short-term help covering the costs of shelter, food, utilities, clothing or other necessities.



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"I keep telling people it's not so much where your building is but where you build your community. If our community can be virtual, it's still a giving community. It's still people doing good things ... you can still do something in the name of the post and in the name of The American Legion."

Riverside, Ill., American Legion Post 488 Commander Joseph Topinka, whose members conducted virtual Poppy Day and Memorial Day activities in the midst of home-sheltering restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic

'In the name of The American Legion'

Memorial Day in the time of coronavirus had its limitations. But that did not stop The American Legion from honoring those who served in uniform and are no longer with us. Virtual Memorial Day ceremonies were conducted across the land, many of which were streamed live on social media or recorded.

And hundreds of patriotic Americans answered American

Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford's call to place candles on front porches throughout the country at dusk on Memorial Day "to remind everyone why we must never forget the meaning of this sacred holiday."

Red candles were placed to remember "those who shed their blood in combat and made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country," Oxford said. "A white

candle can remind us all of the POWs and MIAs who are not yet home from wartime service. A blue candle can symbolize our eternal love of those who did come home but have since left us."

The American Legion Family responded, using social media to share dozens of photos using **#candlesof honor**. The expression of gratitude was such that Candles of Honor may become annual.



Photo courtesy American Legion Post 18

Buddy Checks help veterans

American Legion Post 18 in Weehawken, N.J., already had an active Buddy Check program in place when the coronavirus pandemic hit. As sheltering-at-home directives later isolated veterans in the community, the fast-growing post ramped up the program, particularly to check on older veterans. "Now, more than ever, due to social distancing, we want to make sure that our more vulnerable veterans aren't being left too alone," Past Post 18 Commander and Hudson County Vice Commander Chris Page said. "We need to make sure they're doing well both mentally and physically."

Following one Buddy Check, the Legionnaires connected with a recently widowed World War II veteran and helped him with outdoor chores he is no longer able to do on his own.

► 2,500

Minimum number of U.S. flags properly retired in a June 13 ceremony in Greenfield, Ind., by social-distancing veterans service organizations, including **Dale E. Kuhn American Legion Post 119**. The event was livestreamed on Facebook.



Photo by Justin Casterline

► 2,166

American Legion posts enrolled in the organization's national Flag Rewards Program, which provides a 10-cent credit at Emblem Sales for every dollar spent on flags purchased there.

"One of the best blood drives ever ... Thanks for giving the gift of life."

Chaplain Al Buxton of Yeager Benson American Legion Post 199 in Harrison, Ohio, who coordinated a May 26 blood drive that attracted more than 60 donors to help with the shortage caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The post also provided a free drive-through hamburger lunch that fed 200.

► 7.1%

Increase in March 2020, compared to March 2019, in the number of new amateur radio licenses granted by the FCC, according to the American Legion Amateur Radio Club, which now has more than 4,000 members, making it one of the largest ham radio clubs in the nation



Mike Goodnough of **Eick-Sankey Post 302 in Oconto Falls, Wis.**, salutes during a drive-by Memorial Day observance. American Legion members around the country adapted ceremonies to meet social-distancing guidelines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo by Mike Roemer

A grand idea to feed the hungry

The American Legion Department of Rhode Island recently made a cash donation of \$1,000 to the Emanuel Lutheran Church food pantry in West Warwick. "During this COVID crisis, a lot of people don't have food," Post 2 Finance Director Bob Schierschmidt said. "We thought if we could give a monetary donation, that's going to help." The pantry estimates it will provide over 100,000 pounds of food for anyone who needs it this year.

► \$60,000

Minimum amount raised between April 26 and May 26 by **Department of Florida American Legion Riders** in a Virtual Unity Ride for the department's PROJECT: VetRelief Suicide Prevention Initiative.

► 5,000

Brown-bag lunches provided and distributed free of charge to anyone who wanted them by **American Legion Auxiliary Unit 28 in Millsboro, Del.**, working with other community groups to help families through the pandemic.

Outpouring of flood relief

"We're pretty much packed to the rafters," said Commander Mark Authier as **Thomas-Daniels-Hand American Legion Post 443 in Sanford, Mich.**, collected donated supplies to help communities after the Edenville Dam ruptured in May. Millions of gallons of water were unleashed, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate. Water, food, cleaning supplies, tools and other items came in, including full trailer loads from **Owen Barrett Post 110 in Mount Pleasant**.



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'Know Your Benefits'

A concise American Legion booklet provides VA benefits and eligibility information, from VA home loans to caregiver support. Download it free online.

'What to Do Before a Veteran Dies'

An American Legion booklet provides information for families so they understand the documents they will need to apply for VA burial and memorial benefits.

'Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: A Guide to Identification and Getting Help'

A booklet to explain PTSD and its potential effects, the claim-filing process and resources to get help is available from The American Legion.

All three booklets can be found in the "Veterans Affairs" section of the American Legion Publications hub online.

legion.org/publications

Universal mail-in voting



SUPPORT

Eli Lehrer

■ Lehrer is president of the R Street Institute, a nonpartisan public policy research organization.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear that the United States must make wider use of vote-by-mail in the November 2020 elections. It is tested, secure and necessary.

Absentee voting by mail already exists in every state and, for people who are serving in the U.S. military, homebound by illness or traveling on Election Day, is the only way to ensure their vote is counted. From liberal Hawaii to conservative Utah, five states vote almost exclusively by mail, while 17 other states sometimes hold mail-in-by-default elections.

While no perfect method exists, mail-in voting is also more secure. It's impossible to stuff a ballot box where none exists. The system creates an individual paper record for each ballot. And the handful of serious problems that have emerged – mostly in states that do few mail-in elections – can be avoided with proper enforcement of existing laws. The Postal Inspection Service exists to protect the mail, and the Department of Justice prosecutes election fraud.

Amidst this unprecedented pandemic, voting by mail is necessary. Unless a vaccine exists by Election Day, many people, disproportionately older and disabled, will risk catching a deadly disease if they stand in line at the polls.

There's no one-size-fits-all solution. States should decide exactly how to help citizens exercise their right to vote. Some may send ballots to every resident, while others might distribute absentee ballot applications. Other states may simply step up informational efforts about absentee voting. But in the 2020 election, those who want to vote by mail should have that right.



OPPOSE

Catherine Engelbrecht

■ Engelbrecht is founder of True the Vote, a nonpartisan voters' rights and election integrity organization.

Politicos and power brokers are seizing upon the COVID-19 crisis as their opportunity to control American voters by destroying the processes that keep elections free and fair. Universal mail-in ballots are part of a well-crafted strategy to subvert election integrity through forced reliance on unstable, untested and insecure processes.

There are several reasons why universal mail-in voting should not be supported. Security measures provided by in-person and absentee

voting will be lost, leaving states to rely only on handwriting comparisons, a subjective process that is uncertain at best.

Voter rolls are notoriously littered with duplicate, dead and ineligible names. Tens of millions of ballots will be mailed out to these names, with no way to regulate who actually receives and casts the ballot.

Vote harvesters (special-interest groups that distribute and collect ballots) will swarm to communities of our most vulnerable populations – specifically the elderly – to capture votes in whatever way serves their purposes.

Delivery of paper ballots to and from the voter relies on the U.S. Postal Service and postal workers who have no accountability in the overall process. If ballots aren't delivered, the voter has no recourse. Also, a massive influx of paper ballots will be impossible for counties to securely manage. Accuracy of the count will be unavoidably compromised.

Our forefathers fought and died for the right to vote. Now we too must stand and defend our vote against an onerous government that would have us believe we are subjects in a nanny state.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

Proponents say allowing Americans to cast their votes by mailing in a ballot instead of going to a polling place on Election Day is safe and convenient. Opponents say it's a partisan ploy, ripe for fraud and abuse.

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HOME DEFENSE

With a second wave of coronavirus threatening, follow these healthy precautions.

BY BETH W. ORENSTEIN

Media Bakery

Scientists warn that a second wave of the novel coronavirus could be worse than the first, especially as it could coincide with flu season in the United States.

Here's how Zainab Saadi, an internal medicine physician at AltaMed Health Services in Los Angeles, and Elizabeth Cozine of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., say you can stay healthy while sticking close to home and reduce your risk of contracting the virus:

- **Stay in as much as you can.** If you need medications or groceries, try to arrange delivery. Younger family or friends can often help, as can businesses, insurance plans, clinics, local governments and service organizations, Saadi says. "If you can't coordinate delivery, look for pharmacies that have drive-thru medication pickup windows, so you don't have to get out of the car," she says.

- **Take advantage of doctor visits over the phone or by video chat.** "Televisits (with physicians) have become easy to get, and are as good as clinic visits for refilling medications, answering questions or managing many medical conditions," Saadi says.

- **Stock up.** Your doctor can choose how much of a medicine you can get per bottle. Ask your doctor for three-month supplies of medications if possible, to help decrease your need for refills and outings to restock.

- **Sanitize.** Regularly wipe down frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, handles, tabletops, computer keyboards and cellphones.

- **Mask it.** If you must go out, wear a mask. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), using simple cloth face coverings can help slow the spread of the virus, and help people who may have the virus and not know it from transmitting it to others.

- **Get regular exercise.** You don't have to go to the gym to exercise. Walk around your house. Climb stairs. Pedal an under-the-desk bike. Dance to some music. Exercise not only helps you stay healthy, it's also a mood-lifter, studies show. And it can help you sleep better at night.

- **Have a lifeline.** Know who to call if your outlook sours and you need a mental or spiritual boost. "Calling a good friend, family, or any emotional-help hotline can help cure your mood and boost your day," Saadi says.

- **Sleep well.** During these times of uncertainty and stress, it's easy to lay awake worrying. Quality sleep is essential to your good health, Cozine says. Go to bed around the same time every night, even on weekends, and wake up at around the same time even if you don't have to be at work the next morning. Keep your bedroom dark and cool. Shut off electronics at least 30 minutes before bedtime.

- **Eat smart.** Healthy eating is an important part of wellness but even more so during a pandemic like we're experiencing, Cozine says. Make fresh fruits and vegetables the mainstay of your diet. Eat little or no processed foods and only small amounts of healthy fats. Consider eating more meatless meals.

- **Seek answers.** If you have concerns, ask your doctor's office. Most can direct you to the right place, whether your question is about medical, social or living issues, Saadi says.

Beth W. Orenstein of Northampton, Pa., is a freelance medical writer.

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

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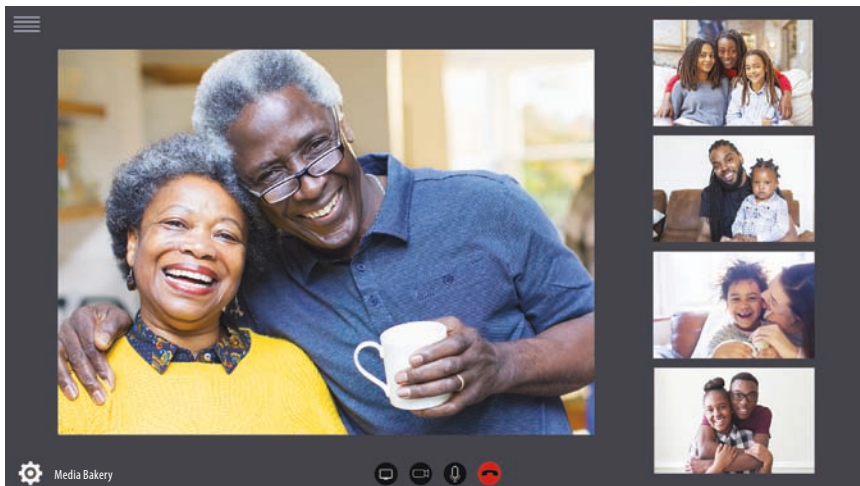
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SELF-CARE AT HOME

Even as states lift restrictions in the wake of COVID-19, Americans whose age or health conditions put them at particular risk may choose to stay close to home. While doing so, don't neglect your psychological well-being.

- **Take care of yourself first, then take care of the others around you.** If you have what you need, you will be better able to provide for what loved ones and others might need. Encourage those around you to do the same.

- **Make a to-do list for every day.** The goals must be reasonable and attainable. Routines promote time management and help lower anxiety and worry.

- **Stick to your schedule as much as possible.** Create achievable due dates for yourself, and stick to them as much as possible.

- **Take small breaks throughout your day.** Do something different during these times.

- **Get your news from the most reliable sources available.** Check at least two sources when trying to glean the facts. Trust, then verify.

- **Be careful about excesses of any kind.** Too much news, TV, coffee, etc., should be avoided. Find other activities worth doing. What about art, music, writing – anything else that gives you a sense of satisfaction? When faced with difficulties, it is hard to justify such behaviors to ourselves. But doing so may help you be more effective in other, more tedious things you have to do. If you have extra time, try learning a new skill.

- **Find a way to talk to other people.** Make use of Skype, Facebook, FaceTime, Zoom, telephone and other forms of staying in touch – whatever works for you. Even casual connections help you feel involved and vital.

- **New routines may be necessary.** Make them realistic and, where children or grandchildren are concerned, child-friendly. Routines should be predictable and structured, to help deal with uncertainties and stress.

Whether or not a second wave of coronavirus occurs, it's worth preparing for a future pandemic or similar circumstance:

- **Develop a personal and family plan.** Write down what you need now and what you will likely need to get through this situation and ones that may occur in the future.

- **Preparation at all levels.** The purchase of food, water, necessities, toiletries, etc., should be ongoing to avoid the hoarding that often occurs during man-made or natural crises.

- **Develop a mindset of survival.** Avoid adopting the attitudes of most people: "It probably won't happen to me," "it won't be that bad," or "even if it is that bad, there is nothing I can do about it anyway." These are simply not true.

- **Put together a "go-bag."** Include items you may need for yourself and those close to you. Plan for circumstances that require you to leave your home and those that may require you to shelter in place. Plan a bag for each member of your family, including your animals, and keep them stocked and up to date.

James L. Greenstone is professor of disaster and emergency management at the Nova Southeastern University Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is a member of Donald N. Thompson American Legion Post 655 in Haltom City, Texas.

Safe defrosting

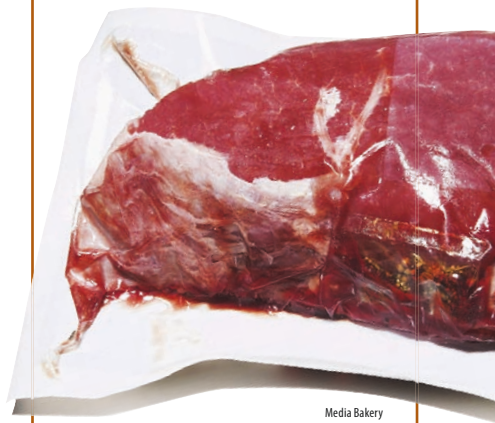
WebMD reminds us to be smart about how we thaw food.

Once frozen food gets warmer than 40 degrees, it's in the "danger zone" where bacteria multiply quickly. As outer areas thaw, they reach that stage before other parts of the food – and can spoil it.

The fridge is the safest way to thaw your food, keeping it at 40 degrees or below throughout the defrosting process. Ground meat and chicken breasts usually take a full day, while a frozen turkey needs 24 hours for every five pounds.

While hot water thaws food quickly, it also raises the temperature past the 40-degree mark. But cold water is safe. Fill the kitchen sink, put the food in a leak-proof bag and change the water every 30 minutes. The cold-water option thaws a pound of meat in an hour.

Never thaw food in a dishwasher, garage, basement or on the back porch. The microwave is safe, though the food doesn't always thaw evenly. Don't use a slow cooker, and don't start a slow cooker with frozen meat or poultry. Pressure cookers heat quickly enough to be safe.



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Cadillac Ranch, Amarillo, Texas

Photo courtesy Travel Texas



5 TOP STOPS ON ROUTE 66

Visit a bygone era by traveling America's Main Street.

BY LYN METTLER

Take a trip back in time by driving the historic Route 66, the famous stretch of highway that once took Americans from Chicago to California, ending at the Santa Monica Pier. There's no shortage of fun things to see on the Mother Road: old gas stations, kitschy landmarks, national and state parks, museums, burger joints and more.

Here are some of the best stops along America's favorite highway, from the scenic to the quirky:

Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore, Okla. Oklahoma has the largest stretch of Route 66, with more than 400 miles and plenty of stops. The Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore celebrates the native Oklahoman with photos, artifacts and memorabilia, and plays his movies daily. There's also Rogers' burial site, on which is etched his famous quote, "I never met a man I didn't like." Tickets are \$5 for seniors and military with ID.

Petrified Forest National Park, Ariz. While driving Route 66, spend time at one of America's most colorful national parks. Petrified Forest National Park is the site of 200-million-year-old fossils of petrified wood, prehistoric dwellings and ancient petroglyphs. The park has several hiking trails in the main park and its backcountry. You can also explore the area by horse, mule or llama, and even camp overnight for free.

Cars on the Route, Galena, Kan. If you are traveling with young fans of Disney's "Cars," which is filled with Route 66 references, stop at an old garage in Galena to see "Tow Tater," which is said to be the inspiration for Pixar's character Mater the Tow Truck. The site has a cafe and shop, and is open April through November.

Cadillac Ranch, Amarillo, Texas For a rather unusual and free stop, head to Cadillac Ranch west of Amarillo, where you'll find 10 of the classic cars planted nose-down in the ground and decorated with spray paint. You're invited to bring your own can of paint to add to the decor of the vehicles, which have been there since 1974.

Wigwam Motels, San Bernardino, Calif. Exactly the type of thing you'd expect to find along Route 66 are these classic motels (of which you'll find a fun recreation at Cars Land in Disneyland) built by Frank Redford. Built in 1949, the Wigwam Motels in San Bernardino are among hundreds of motels that lined the route for weary travelers heading west, and are one of seven of Redford's wigwam motels. Here you'll find 19 motel units in the shapes of teepees, which you can reserve for about \$90 per night.

Lyn Mettler is a freelance travel writer who blogs at gototravelgal.com.



Drive-in movie theaters are seeing an increase in visitors as Americans continue social distancing. Make it a part of your end-of-summer travels with stops like Highway 21 Drive-In in Beaufort, S.C., the Drive-In at Sawyer Yards in Houston, and the Hub 30A in South Walton, Fla.

Planning a road trip and need ideas? According to AAA, the **Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina and Virginia** is the most popular, followed by the Grand Pacific Northwest through Oregon and Washington, and then the Smoky Mountains in Tennessee and North Carolina.

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AND THEN THERE WERE SIX

*A U.S. military branch
dedicated to space has been
decades in the making.*

BY ALAN W. DOWD

In the latest example of the White House's determination to expand America's reach and role in space, it has directed the Pentagon to "develop, operate and maintain space-control capabilities to ensure freedom of action in space and, if directed, to deny such freedom of action to adversaries."

That directive was issued not by President Donald Trump, but by President Bill Clinton – in 1996. Put another way, Trump wasn't the first policymaker to issue marching orders to the Pentagon for operations in space. In fact, he wasn't even the first policymaker to call for a military branch focused on defending U.S. interests in space.

NECESSARY After Trump announced in early 2018 that he was ordering the Pentagon "to immediately begin the process necessary to establish a Space Force as the sixth branch of the Armed Forces," several media outlets panned the idea as a "space farce." Some dismissed it as ridiculous. Netflix announced a comedy series mocking the very notion of "a new branch ... to defend satellites from attack ... or something."

What the giggling pundits don't know is that a military branch dedicated to defending America's vulnerable assets and growing interests in space is neither a new idea nor a farce.

Long before Clinton ordered the Pentagon to develop space-control capabilities and ensure freedom of action in space, President John Kennedy in 1962 called for America to occupy "a position of pre-eminence" in space and warned of "hostile misuse of space" by adversaries. President Ronald Reagan in 1982 declared that the United States would "oppose ... prohibitions on the military or intelligence use of space."

An Atlas V CST-100 Starliner rocket successfully launches over a Redstone rocket at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida on Dec. 20. That same day, the U.S. Space Force was founded, making the Starliner launch the last official Air Force space launch and ushering in a new era.

Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dalton Williams

In 2001, a congressionally appointed commission led by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld (who headed the Pentagon under President Gerald Ford and President George W. Bush) envisioned the establishment of a Space Corps within the Air Force to help "avoid a space Pearl Harbor."

In 2016, John Hamre, deputy secretary of defense under Clinton, raised the possibility of a "space service" within the Air Force.

In 2017, U.S. Reps. Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., and Mike Rogers, R-Ala., called for the creation, under the secretary of the Air Force, of a new Space Corps "as a separate military service."

That same year, the Trump administration reopened the National Space Council. In 2018, Trump re-established U.S. Space Command.

In early 2019, a group of defense officials led by Defense Secretary William Perry (who headed the Pentagon under Clinton) urged the establishment of a new military service to "deter conflict from beginning in or extending into space, and, if deterrence fails, to defeat hostile actions and protect our economic and national-security interests."

In June 2019, NATO unveiled plans to recognize space as an operational domain of warfare. A month later, France carved out a space command within the French air force. By December, Britain's new government announced creation of a UK space command. That same month, the U.S. Space Force (USSF) was born, following the passage of the 2020 defense bill.

In short, Trump merely steered the Pentagon to a destination many other policymakers had advocated for years.

DEPENDENT The reason Congress and the president agreed to create a new military branch – the first since the Air Force separated from the Army in 1947 – is twofold.

First, as Lt. Gen. David Buck observes, "Space is critical to the American way of life." Yet most Americans, having lowered their gaze from the heavens to hand-held devices, are oblivious to how much we depend on space for communications, commerce, air and ground transport, emergency services and national security.

Of the 2,218 operational satellites in orbit, 1,007 are owned and operated by U.S. firms, government agencies or military units. A 2019 Space Foundation report reveals a global space economy of \$414.75 billion – up from \$261.6 billion a decade earlier – with more than 183,000 Americans employed in the space workforce.

Just as freedom of the seas was essential to America's economic and national security in centuries past, so is freedom of space essential to its economic and national security this century. Neither happens magically. Freedom of the seas and freedom of space depend on responsible powers deterring bad actors, dissuading reckless behavior and defining "rules of the road."

The need to defend territory, sovereignty and liberty obliged Americans to field an army. Maritime trade and threats obliged Americans to deploy a navy. Airline travel, air commerce and airborne threats obliged Americans to create an independent air force. And a mix of economic opportunities, national-security needs and threats that exist in – and move through – space oblige Americans to launch a space force.

Those national-security needs are vast. Missile-defense ships prowling the Pacific, soldiers guarding the 38th parallel, unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) circling over Africa's lawless regions, fighter-bombers loitering above Middle East hotspots, air squadrons and armored battalions protecting the Baltics, carrier strike groups defending freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, Marine Expeditionary Units watching Iran in the Persian Gulf, submarines serving as a silent deterrent, sensors monitoring Russian, Chinese and North Korean nukes, communications networks linking commanders, troops, weapons systems and allies – all of these rely on space.

"There is no soldier, sailor, airman, Marine anywhere in the world that is not critically depending on what we provide in space," says Gen. John Hyten, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs and former commander of Space Command.

Notice Hyten didn't limit that mission to helping airmen and astronauts. Every branch is dependent

"The Space Force shall be organized, trained and equipped to provide freedom of operation for the United States in, from and to space; and prompt and sustained space operations ... It shall be the duty of the Space Force to protect the interests of the United States in space; deter aggression in, from and to space; and conduct space operations."

2020 National Defense Authorization Act

on space – and growing increasingly dependent.

Consider the Army. No other branch is more closely associated with *terra firma*. Yet as the Lexington Institute's Loren Thompson points out, a typical Army armored brigade "contains over 2,000 pieces of equipment that rely on space assets to function."

The same applies to the Air Force and Navy.

"Air superiority depends on space superiority," says Maj. Gen. Alex Grynkeiwich.

"The loss of space would mean naval battles would in many ways be like the game of Battleship, where two sides would struggle to even find each other," adds New America's Peter Singer.

Creating a military branch focused on space isn't about waging war in the heavens, but the very opposite: preventing war and deterring enemies.

According to Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein, "we've never come out winning" a wargame in space. That helps explain why Gen. John Raymond, Space Force's chief of space operations, argues it is a "national imperative that we posture ourselves to deter any conflict that would extend to space." If deterrence fails, Raymond's new branch will give America a better chance to "fight and win."

VULNERABLE That brings us to the second reason the Space Force was created.

"If you control space, you can also control the land and the sea," says Gen. Xu Qiliang, vice commander of the People's Liberation Army's Central Military Commission.

Toward that end, China has created a "strategic support force" responsible for satellite launches and operations involving satellite-on-satellite attacks, according to RAND.

A 2019 government report notes that Beijing views space as a critical U.S. military and economic vulnerability. Pentagon reports add that China has the world's most rapidly maturing space program, and is developing doctrines geared toward damaging and interfering with enemy reconnaissance and communications satellites. China is also acquiring technologies to accelerate counter-space capabilities, including satellite jammers and anti-satellite (ASAT) weaponry.

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China has conducted at least three ASAT tests in the past decade. One expanded the amount of debris in orbit by 10 percent. U.S. spacecraft, astronauts and satellites will have to navigate that minefield forever. (India, perhaps signaling China, conducted its own ASAT test in 2019, creating another minefield of debris.)

Russia is conducting ASAT tests even more frequently than China. Moscow's April ASAT test is believed to be its ninth test of a "direct ascent" ASAT over the past several years. (Direct-ascent ASATs are ground-based missiles.) Raymond called the test "another example that the threats to U.S. and allied space systems are real, serious and growing."

In addition, the Russian military has deployed a number of satellites capable of "rendezvous and proximity operations" – military parlance for maneuvering around other satellites to monitor, disrupt and/or disable them. In February, Raymond revealed that two Russian satellites were shadowing a U.S. Keyhole satellite in what he called "unusual and disturbing" behavior. He recently reported that in 2017 Russia deployed a satellite that "launched a high-speed projectile into space" – a satellite built for space-based ASAT attacks.

To remove any doubt about how Moscow intends to use its space assets, Russia announced in 2015 that its air forces, anti-air and anti-missile defenses, and space forces would now be under a unified Aero-Space Forces.

In short, Russia and China are posturing their militaries to defend their interests, expand their capabilities, target their adversaries and exploit U.S. vulnerabilities in space.

TIGHT-KNIT America's newest branch is modeled after the tight-knit Navy-Marine Corps relationship rather than the Army-Air Force divorce that followed World War II.

The law that birthed the Space Force describes the new branch as "an armed force within the Department of the Air Force" and notes that Space Force leaders work "under the authority, direction and control of the secretary of the Air Force." Eighty-six Air Force Academy graduates joined the Space Force ranks last spring – the first academy class to commission officers into the new branch. Indeed, most of the Space Force's initial cadre of 16,000 personnel (including civilians) will migrate from the Air Force.

Space Force leaders are still mulling what to call those personnel, but they will definitely not be called "spacemen" or "space cadets," according to Lt. Gen. David Thompson, vice commander of the Space Force. Military.com reports that "guardians" and "vanguards" are possibilities. Perhaps the best option is "sentinels," which has been circulating in Air Force and Space Force circles.

Raymond, the first member of the U.S. Space Force, was sworn in as chief of space operations and Space Force commander in January. When the branch celebrates its first birthday, he will take a seat on an expanded Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Five Air Force space wings were transferred to the Space Force in December. Another 23 Air Force squadrons, programs, centers and units are being transferred to the Space Force this year. Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, Patrick Air Force Base in Florida, and Peterson, Buckley and Schriever Air Force bases in Colorado will host Space Force units.

Welcome to The American Legion, Space Force

A May 26 memo to American Legion national leadership from the national judge advocate stated that per Title 36 of U.S. Code, Chapter 217, Section 21703, individuals are eligible for American Legion membership if they served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the periods laid out in the LEGION Act.

When the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act was signed by the president in 2019 and became Public Law 116-92, the Space Force was added to Section 101(a)(4) of Title 10, which now reads: "(4) The term 'armed forces' means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard." Since Section 21703 stipulates only "Armed Forces," and U.S. Code now includes the Space Force in its definition, no actions are required by The American Legion to accept Space Force servicemembers into the organization.



AMERICA REMEMBERS PRESENTS

The Vietnam Veterans Tribute Thompson

HONORING ALL THOSE WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM

Our men and women came from all over the country, from all walks of life, to fight for freedom on the other side of the world. They served with honor, dignity, and courage. All gave some, some gave all, and many are still missing and unaccounted for. As a nation, we owe all of our Vietnam Veterans a debt that can never be repaid.

Nothing about the Vietnam War was easy. Those who were there remember the swampy grasslands, rice paddies, dense jungles, the heat and an elusive enemy; a war that took place halfway around the world in a country divided by decades of bitter history.

Few generations faced a more daunting challenge than those who fought in Southeast Asia. Few generations are more deserving of our gratitude and respect. To honor all those who served in Vietnam, America Remembers presents the **Vietnam Veterans Tribute Thompson**. Craftsmen commissioned specifically for this project by America Remembers decorate each Thompson in elegant 24-karat gold artwork on a mirror-polished nickel-decorated receiver. Issued in an exclusive limited edition of only 1,000 Tributes, this handsome firearm captures the courage and sacrifice of all those who fought for freedom in Vietnam.

The Tribute is a working semi-automatic Thompson submachine gun in caliber .45 ACP, one of the most memorable American infantry weapons of all time. Like many dedicated Americans, the Thompson served proudly in Vietnam. We've taken this combat-tested classic and transformed it into a work of art. The result is a stunning presentation firearm that will stand as a testament and lasting Tribute to all Vietnam veterans.

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Vietnam was considered the "last great war" for the Tommy Gun. Though it saw less use than in previous wars, it was a popular weapon for American and South Vietnamese soldiers. The Thompson was a "warhorse" which was relied on for its superior stopping power and dependability.

Like the dedicated American warriors who served in Vietnam, the Thompson served proudly in Vietnam, continuing a tradition of excellence first established during WWII, and later in Korea. This stunning presentation firearm is a lasting tribute to all of America's veterans and links them forever in time with their brothers-in-arms who fought earlier wars.

We know there will never be another American-made firearm like the Thompson submachine gun. And there will never be more dedicated men and women than those who bravely served their country in Vietnam.

Much like the generations of warriors who came before, those who served with valor in Vietnam deserve their place in American history.

They didn't hesitate to put their lives on the line and give up everything in defense of our liberty and freedom. Some made the ultimate sacrifice. Others returned home to a divided nation. All of them deserve our gratitude.

During the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, there has been a strong interest in firearm Tributes honoring those who served in Vietnam. Demand for this Tribute is expected to be strong. Order now to guarantee your place in the edition. We will arrange delivery through the licensed firearms dealer of your choice (not available in CA, CT, MD, NY). If for any reason you are not completely satisfied with your Tribute, you may return it in original, unfired condition within 30 days for a complete and courteous refund.

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▼ Both sides of the receiver feature emblems that honor Vietnam War veterans. The banner reads: "A Grateful Nation Remembers," and inside the oval is a lone American soldier, the distinctive silhouette of Vietnam and a pair of U.S. military helicopters. The emblem on the right side is framed with a banner reading: "Vietnam Veterans Tribute Thompson".

▼ Left side of the receiver features a soldier with his M60 machine gun--nicknamed "The Pig" for its hefty size. The M60 unleashed a fury of firepower on the enemy. Also featured is a M48-A3 Patton tank providing cover as troops enter a village. The M48 was a workhorse during the Vietnam War.

▲ Right side also features a soldier scanning the distance for enemy movement. A pair of M48 tanks make their way on the ground while the sky is abuzz with helicopters, which played such an important role during the Vietnam War. On the far end of the receiver, you'll find a Marine and his M16. Along with the Huey, the legendary M16 has become a symbol of combat service in Vietnam. Introduced to the battlefield in 1964, the M16 was a lightweight assault rifle that proved invaluable in jungle firefights. Right side features an image of the iconic Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal presented by Republic of Vietnam to members of the United States military who completed at least six months of duty in the war, with a frame reading: "Vietnam War - All Gave Some, Some Gave All." Below it you'll find a banner that reads: "Lest We Forget."

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America's newest military branch was quickly put to work. In January, just days after the Space Force's birth, Iran launched missiles at U.S. bases in Iraq.

"Members of the U.S. Space Force detected those missiles at launch and provided early warning to our forces," Thompson reports. The Space Force is deploying and manning a suite of new systems, such as the ground-based jammer recently activated at Peterson, which is designed to block satellite-network communications by hostile regimes. And the Space Force is tracking satellites, supporting military launches and operating the U.S. constellation of GPS satellites on which most Americans depend. Indeed, the Space Force reports that it's responsible for the launch, on-orbit operations and landing of the super-secret X-37B unmanned spaceplane.

PREPARED A new military branch with new facilities, new billets and a new bureaucracy costs money. All forms of national defense carry a cost. The Congressional Budget Office estimates \$3 billion in initial costs, plus \$1.3 billion in additional spending annually. That's not an insignificant amount, especially in an era of post-COVID-19 belt-tightening.

Of course, if the nation's space-dependent communications systems, transportation systems or financial system – our very way of life – were to be crippled or held hostage by an adversary, media types wouldn't be giggling or filming spoofs about the Space Force. And the American people wouldn't be asking policymakers, "Why did you spend so much on the Space Force?" Instead, they would be demanding, "Why didn't you do more to protect America's assets and interests in space?"

"Snapping to the question of cost misses the whole point that our adversaries are rapidly catching up to us," Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Matthew Donovan argues. "How about the cost of losing a war? That may be the cost we should be talking about."

Indeed, as a rather well-known American general once observed, "There is nothing so likely to produce peace as to be well prepared to meet an enemy." George Washington's wise counsel applies whether the enemy lurks on land, at sea, in the sky – or in space. 🌌

Alan W. Dowd is a senior fellow with the Sagamore Institute Center for America's Purpose.



The Space Force logo: Who copied who?

When President Trump tweeted the new logo for the U.S. Space Force on Jan. 25, observers pointed out – and in some cases mocked – its similarity to the Starfleet Command seal from the "Star Trek" franchise.

"Boldly going where we've gone before," one Twitter user commented.

Actually, that couldn't be more true. The Space Force logo borrows key elements from the Air Force's Space Command emblem, created in the 1980s. Even then, its superimposed deltoid looked a lot like the classic "Star Trek" insignia – which, interestingly enough, was based on original NASA designs.

According to *The Washington Post*, "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry and producer Robert Justman – both World War II veterans – based their insignia on NASA's gold astronaut pins, awarded to those who flew into space.

The agency described the design as a "trio of trajectories merging in infinite space, capped by a bright shining star and encircled by an elliptical wreath denoting orbital flight."

In 1959, NASA unveiled its logo, which included a red delta-like shape surrounded by stars and a white orbital arc. StarTrek.com says the Starfleet insignia is meant to be a "direct descendant" of that logo.

Michael Okuda, the graphic designer who created the Starfleet Command seal in the 1990s, went on to design emblems for NASA's Constellation, Ares, Orion and Altair programs, as well as the emblem for the final servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope.

In a Facebook post, he shrugged off the idea that the Space Force plagiarizes his "Trek" logo, saying that arrowheads, orbital swooshes, stars and planets have always been part of space emblems.

"Well," he joked, "they say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery!"

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55-59	\$15.28	\$11.50	\$24.79	\$18.50	\$48.58	\$36.00	\$119.96	\$88.50
60-64	\$18.50	\$13.75	\$30.17	\$22.25	\$59.33	\$43.50	\$146.83	\$107.25
65-69	\$22.08	\$17.05	\$36.13	\$27.75	\$71.25	\$54.50	\$176.63	\$134.75
70-74	\$29.53	\$22.30	\$48.54	\$36.50	\$96.08	\$72.00	\$238.71	\$178.50
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New Jersey VETERANS HOME at Paramus



New Jersey Army National Guard Combat Medic Spc. Gabriel Fayed stands outside the New Jersey Veterans Home at Paramus on April 9. Guardsmen provided support to state and local officials for COVID-19 relief efforts. New Jersey Army National Guard photo by Mark C. Olsen

Rapid Response

California state veterans homes keep coronavirus at bay as infections devastate long-term care facilities elsewhere.

BY KEN OLSEN

Weeks before the nation's first major COVID-19 outbreak at a private nursing home in Washington state in late February, Dr. Vito Imbasciani and his team at the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) were preparing for a possible pandemic. The agency made sure it had personal protective equipment for nursing home staff, hand-sanitizing stations for visitor entrances, disposable dinnerware and plans to feed residents in their rooms, isolation areas for those who became infected, and masks for residents to wear when they were not in their rooms.

This advance preparation, spelled out in a detailed 38-point plan, has been a resounding success at a time when nursing homes are often synonymous with rampant coronavirus infections. As of mid-June, only three of the 2,100 residents at California's eight state veterans homes had

contracted COVID-19, and just two had died. And only 19 of the 2,300 staff had tested positive for coronavirus.

CalVet's success at fending off the novel coronavirus is noteworthy considering that between a third and a half of the COVID-19-related deaths in the United States have occurred in long-term care facilities. State veterans homes in New Jersey, Massachusetts and New York have been especially hard hit. Some private nursing homes are also dealing with large numbers of coronavirus infections and fatalities. But aside from CalVet and a handful of other examples, it's still not clear if conditions in state veterans homes are substantially different than other long-term care facilities. Among other things, VA does not appear to be fully exercising its oversight with state veterans homes where it pays for residents' care.

And many long-term care facilities are not reporting their case numbers, contributing to a lack of comprehensive data about COVID-19 infections.

In addition, the federal government didn't start compiling COVID-19 infection and fatality information from individual nursing homes until late May. And while that's filled some of the information gaps, 20 percent of long-term care facilities didn't report the required numbers. In addition, many state veterans homes aren't required to send COVID-19 case counts to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) because they are not Medicare/Medicaid certified.

"I would think the CDC would mandate reporting for the non-certified facilities, whether it's state veterans homes or privately run nursing homes and all assisted living facilities – but they have not done that," says Charlene Harrington, professor emerita of nursing and sociology at the University of California San Francisco School of Nursing, who has studied nursing homes for 30 years. "It seems to me to be very important to have transparency so that staff and residents and community members are aware of where the virus is located, since nursing homes are a hot spot for spreading the virus."

Data aside, nursing home experts and advocates are not surprised that COVID-19 has become a catastrophe for some long-term care facilities. "These homes were not delivering quality care when the virus hit," Harrington says. "We know that 75 percent of nursing homes in the United States have inadequate staffing that doesn't meet professional standards. The lack of testing and the lack of personal protective equipment was also a problem."

All of these would apply even if there had never been a coronavirus pandemic. "There are outbreaks of norovirus, C. diff and staph in nursing homes all the time," Harrington says. "Every nursing home needs to have supplies and

isolation areas and infection control plans. And they didn't when the virus hit."

State veterans homes may also not get as much scrutiny, particularly facilities that are not certified by Medicare or Medicaid. VA, which pays state veterans homes a daily fee to care for qualified residents, can inspect their facilities. But the federal agency has been criticized for failing to exercise that authority or share the results.

In May, four Democratic U.S. senators asked the Government Accountability Office

(GAO) to review VA's oversight of state veterans homes in light of a 2019 GAO report that recommended the agency improve its efforts.

"The recent deaths of veteran residents and other care challenges at state veterans homes during the COVID-19 public health emergency remind us that VA's implementation of these recommendations would contribute toward improved care quality at these facilities nationwide and better inform veterans and their families about the best care options," the letter stated. "While VA does not supervise or control the administration of State Veterans Homes, VA pays for veterans to receive care at these facilities and is the only entity that inspects every SVH in the nation."

Robyn Grant, of the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, notes that the very nature of nursing homes – congregated living quarters for vulnerable people who require lots of hands-on care – makes them particularly susceptible to a virus such as COVID-19, which is far more contagious than the flu. Infection-control infractions, which have been among the top problems identified during federal nursing home inspections for years – and were the No. 1 issue in 2019 – likely exacerbated the spread of the coronavirus, Grant says. A lack of masks, gloves and disposable gowns has also made it difficult to prevent or contain infections. "There's no way you can stop the spread of coronavirus if you don't have proper protective equipment," she says.



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People tested or
screened

7K+

Missions
supporting testing
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NATIONAL GUARD COVID-19 RESPONSE

[LOGISTICS]

149M

Meals packaged or delivered to those in need



88K+

Tons of bulk food delivered



29K

Pallets of essential supplies delivered



1.6M

Miles driven to deliver PPE, food and essential supplies

Like Harrington, Grant cites staffing problems as a key contributor to the COVID-19 crisis. Nursing home workers are often poorly paid, rarely have benefits and generally can't afford to stay home if they are sick, she says. Many have to work at more than one facility to make ends meet and may have transmitted the virus between the nursing homes where they work. "This long-term issue of not paying staff a living wage has come home to roost," Grant says. "Staff and residents are paying the price."

Amid the pandemic, the National Guard has been called in to inspect, sanitize, provide additional medical staff, distribute supplies, expand bed capacity and assist with COVID-19 testing at nursing homes, veterans homes and assisted living facilities in at least 16 states. Combat medics were among the 245 members of the New Jersey National Guard deployed to three state veterans homes. Forty Pennsylvania Guardsmen have provided staffing assistance in one of that state's veterans homes. The Michigan National Guard has helped its state veterans homes screen employees for symptoms since March 18.

As of mid-June, the National Guard had added more than 18,000 beds to assisted living centers, VA facilities and other care centers, says Maj. Rob Perino, National Guard Bureau spokesman. The Guard had also disinfected 1,900 long-term care facilities, nursing homes, correctional facilities, VA centers, shelters and other public places to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It tested or screened 2.4 million people at drive-through testing sites, veterans homes, hospitals and other settings across the country.

Utilizing the National Guard is a temporary solution, Grant says. Going forward, nursing homes need to pay staff higher wages, provide hazard pay during the pandemic and offer monetary support for things such as child care given that the COVID-19 crisis has closed schools. "Staff are one of the keys," Grant says.

The private nursing home industry has asked for \$10 billion in federal aid to pay for staff, personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing, according to a May 6 letter the American Health Care Association sent to the Department of Health and Human Services. A different effort – the Nursing Home COVID-19 Protection and Prevention Act – would provide aid directly to states and Indian tribes to deal with the coronavirus in nursing homes and other health-care facilities, according to the office of U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass., an Iraq War veteran and co-sponsor of the legislation. The assistance could be used to deal with the pandemic in some state veterans homes, depending upon how the facility is governed.

The legislation, authored by U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., is crucial to preparing for a second wave in nursing homes, Moulton says. "Federal officials should pass our bill so that states have more resources and strike teams that can go in and help. The key ... is testing, tracing, treatment and protective equipment for staff and residents, continuing research that gives us proof that what we think we know about the virus is true," he adds.

Meanwhile, CalVet's careful preparation appears to be the antithesis of what transpired at many

NATIONAL GUARD COVID-19 RESPONSE

[PARTNERSHIPS]



1900

Long-term care facilities, nursing homes, VA centers and shelters disinfected

598

Liaison officers and planners supporting government agencies

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other nursing homes. And it illuminates another crucial element in preventing a COVID-19-type crisis. “We know that leadership can make an enormous difference in the quality of a nursing home’s care,” Grant says.

That’s abundantly clear in the details of the COVID-19 Preparation and Risk Reduction Action Plan drafted by CalVet director Imbasciani – a 27-year veteran of the Army Medical Corps – and Thomas Bucci, the department’s director of long-term care. Bucci is an Air Force veteran who had decades of health-care administration experience before joining CalVet.

Beyond making sure the state’s eight veterans homes were well-stocked with personal protective equipment – down to fit-testing staff for N95 masks – they directed each home to review and update its emergency operations plan, educated staff about infection control, increased hand sanitizer supplies, minimized entry points to make it easier to screen visitors, scheduled social distancing training for 1,000 of the most mobile residents, and started screening all staff at the beginning of their shifts. The list goes on to include contingency plans for providing residents their medications in the event of a serious COVID-19 outbreak at any of the agency’s three pharmacies.

Then on March 15, CalVet closed the state veterans homes to all visitors except for families with loved ones in hospice care. In a note to families the day before suspending visitor access, Imbasciani acknowledged the stress the decision

would cause and promised nursing home staff would help families stay in contact with residents by assisting with video calls via cellphone or laptop. “I don’t take this decision lightly, but as a physician, I know it is medically necessary,” he wrote of the closure. “I ask for your patience and

understanding and hope you know that every step we are taking is to keep you and your loved ones safe.”

This and other proactive decisions meant that six months into the pandemic, just three of 2,100 residents had contracted COVID-19 and only two died. As of mid-June, that closure remained in place. And there are significant challenges ahead. The cost of responding to the coronavirus pandemic – and the sharp economic downturn – has ravaged state budgets. California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Colorado joined forces to ask Congress for \$1 trillion in COVID-19 relief funds. If the federal government doesn’t

come through, California may close one of its state veterans homes and delay spending on other veterans programs to help deal with the state’s projected \$53 billion budget deficit.

Even without the fiscal challenges, state veterans homes and private long-term care facilities will be vulnerable to COVID-19 for some time, Harrington says. “Even if and when the infection levels out in the general population, it’s going to continue to be a problem in nursing homes and assisted living facilities – until we get the vaccine.” 🌿

Ken Olsen is a frequent contributor to The American Legion Magazine.



New Jersey Army National Guard Combat Medic Spc. Laurel Yerg of the 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry Regiment, checks on a resident of the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park in Edison, N.J., on April 17. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley

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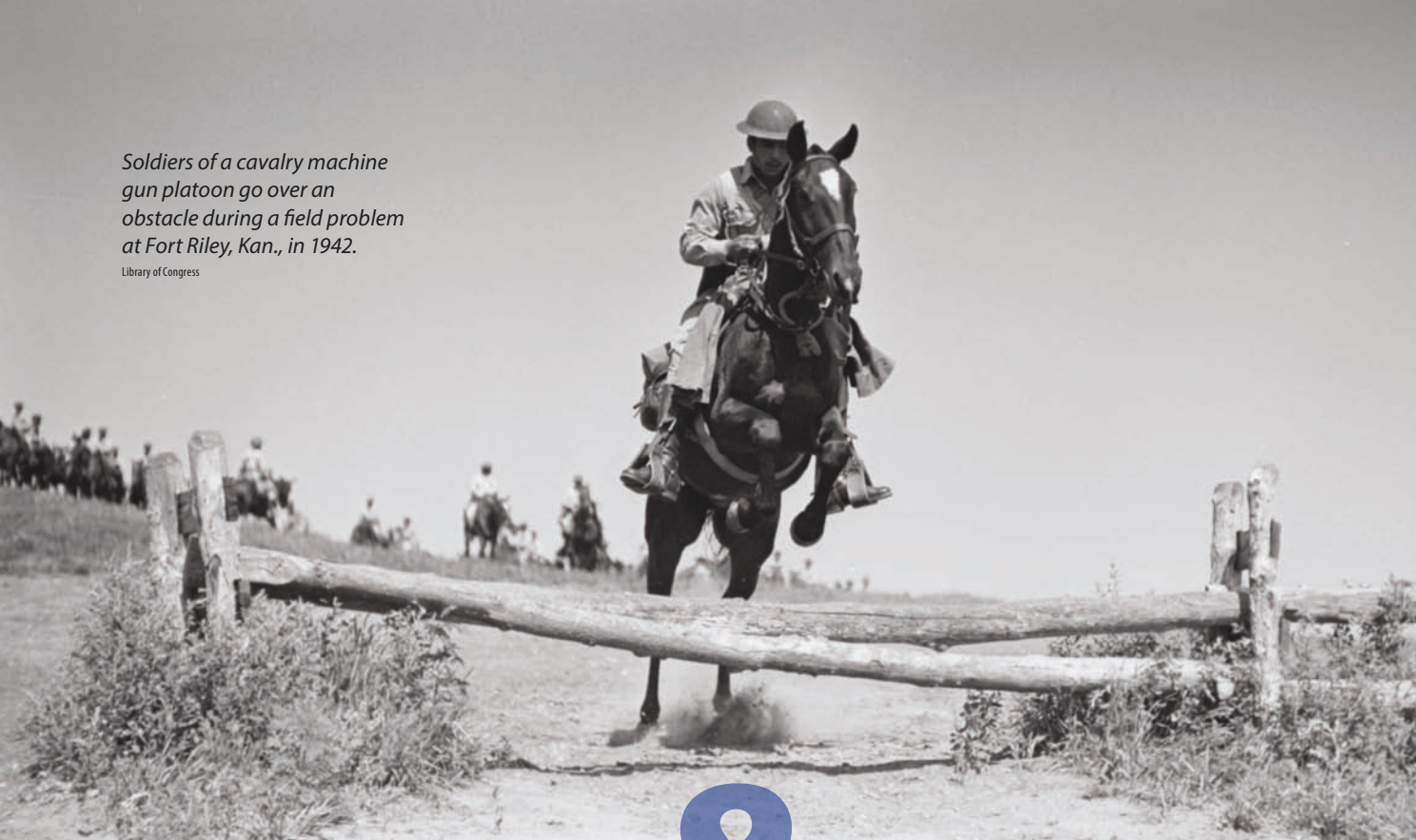


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Soldiers of a cavalry machine gun platoon go over an obstacle during a field problem at Fort Riley, Kan., in 1942.

Library of Congress



TROOPER & MOUNT

The first world war began the U.S. cavalry's long goodbye.

BY AL MANCHESTER

A bullet stopped the clock in the railroad station at Columbus, N.M., at 4 a.m. on March 9, 1916.

The small border town was experiencing its only rendezvous with history, one spark of violence in the otherwise silent desert. Flames from burning buildings lit bullet-whipped streets where troopers of the 13th Cavalry Regiment and outraged citizens fought hundreds of Pancho Villa's raiders. Villa's men pulled out as dawn approached, cavalry troopers chasing them back into Mexico.

Villa's attack on Columbus is assumed to have been a guerrilla raid for supplies and horses, although other explanations have been proposed. Eighteen Americans were killed, others wounded, and property damage was enormous. There had been other cross-border outrages, but this time President Woodrow Wilson was fighting mad. On March 15, columns of U.S. Cavalry rode into Chihuahua, the sun in their eyes, grit in their teeth and Pancho Villa in their sights. This was the last full-fledged cavalry campaign of the U.S. Army.

The first few months of the Punitive Expedition are called the "pursuit period." Flying columns of the 7th, 10th, 11th, and 13th cavalry regiments crisscrossed Chihuahua. Units of the 11th rode into Parral, 400 miles south of the border. Small engagements were fought, up to a few hundred on each side. Villa's men were ridden to the ground, and never again did he menace the U.S. border.

The Punitive Expedition was a tough campaign in hostile country. The last troopers to leave Mexico rode into Columbus on Feb. 5, 1917. When the United States declared war on Germany on April 6, interest in the Punitive Expedition was lost. Ever since, it has remained a hazy episode in American military history.

On March 16, 1916, the day after U.S. Cavalry troopers rode into Mexico, aviation history was made. On that day, the first "aggressive" sortie of what would eventually become the U.S. Air Force lifted off from the field at Columbus and flew into Mexico on a recon mission, with Capt. T.F. Dodd at the controls and Squadron Commander B.D. Fulois

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riding along as observer. The unarmed airplane was a “Jenny” (Curtiss JN-4) that belonged to the 1st Aero Squadron, then part of the Signal Corps. The squadron had eight Jennys, the only operational planes available for the campaign. Dodd and Fulois returned to Columbus without anything of great importance to report.

Six Jennys cracked up during the campaign, and the remaining two were condemned. The squadron flew an estimated 20,000 miles on 540 flights, scouting and delivering messages. The squadron’s mechanics repaired the many trucks that had to be purchased to help supply the troops in Mexico and the trained drivers. And so the U.S. Army started to catch up with the 20th century as its entry into the war in Europe approached.

Histories of cavalry campaigns rarely discuss horses, almost as if they are simply a convenient conveyance. However, as an old trooper would say, the cavalry was only half man. The other half was horse, and cavalrymen knew precisely what sort of horse worked best for them. A cavalry mount, fully loaded, had to be able to march 20 to 30 miles per day, day after day, or 60 miles on a forced march. Finding thousands of suitable mounts during the Civil War had been a perennial problem, and so the Remount Program was born.

The Army purchased 700 stallions, most of them thoroughbreds, although some Morgans and Arabians were drafted. The Army’s stallions were placed with farmers and ranchers and matched with mares of generally no definite bloodline. Cavalrymen visited the ranches and farms to choose the young horses they needed, always looking for the conformation of a suitable cavalry mount. They paid up to \$150 for each young horse – a lot of money in those days. Many of today’s fine horses are descendants of the Remount Program. To avoid horse jargon, suffice it to say that a typical cavalry mount looked much like a modern quarter horse.

Retired Maj. E.A. Capen, interviewed in 1983, was a young trooper when he chased through Mexico on Villa’s trail in 1916. His unit lost only one horse – and that one, they thought, because it might have eaten locoweed.

George Moseley joined the 8th Cavalry Regiment in 1927, leaving an orphanage where he’d been since 1919. He was almost 16. When he received his first mount he was called out of formation, and the drill instructor passed the halter shank to him, saying, “Recruit, this is a horse. His name is Buddy, Preston brand 2W56. Take him over to the picket line.”

The first lesson with a cavalry horse is to groom it the cavalry way, introducing horse and rider. Cavalry mounts were groomed daily, but certainly after a workout. Buddy was a typical mount, about 15 years old when the young recruit received him, and so well trained that he stepped higher when he heard a military band.

Moseley admitted that without that horse he might not have survived basic training. Buddy died in a stable fire in 1929.

Then came the introduction of tanks on the Western Front in 1917 and 1918. Mechanization was considered. But in 1919, 72 military vehicles pulled out of Washington, D.C., bound for San Francisco. Lt. Col. Dwight Eisenhower took part in the expedition. Sixty-two days later, after driving hundreds of miles over minimal roads and through a lot of still-wild country, the expedition reached its goal. Yes, cavalrymen could point out, much of the Far West was still cavalry country.

In 1940 the Army still had 12 regiments of cavalry, with thousands of horses and men to ride and care for them, plus National Guard regiments. But the fast-moving war in Europe was a shock. Cavalry regiments were dismounted one after another. Troopers and officers were promoted to help train the burgeoning army. When the 8th Cavalry dismounted in 1942, Sgt. Moseley was sent to OCS. He then taught at Fort Riley, Kan., before going to the Pacific as a troop commander.

The 26th Cavalry Regiment (PS) was the only regiment of horses to fight from the saddle during World War II. When the Japanese invaded Luzon in the Philippines, the 26th Cavalry fought a series of desperate rearguard actions to gain time while other Filipino and U.S. troops retreated to Bataan.

The 26th Cavalry were Philippine Scouts, trooper Filipinos and U.S. officers. Prior to World War II, the 26th had no combat history. Before their retreat to Bataan, this gallant band of horsemen wrote some extraordinary action-filled chapters. Surviving horses and mules were put down before the surrender to the Japanese.

The last U.S. Cavalry regiment to dismount was the 124th, in June 1944. The troopers cleaned bridles and saddles, stuffed them into burlap sacks and groomed their mounts for the last time, saying goodbye. Capen served through World War II as an instructor of marksmanship. Moseley retired after the Korean War. The last cavalry mount was Chief, who died in 1968 and is buried at Fort Riley. 🌿

Al Manchester is a writer and photographer living in New Mexico.

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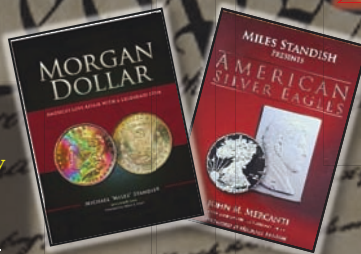
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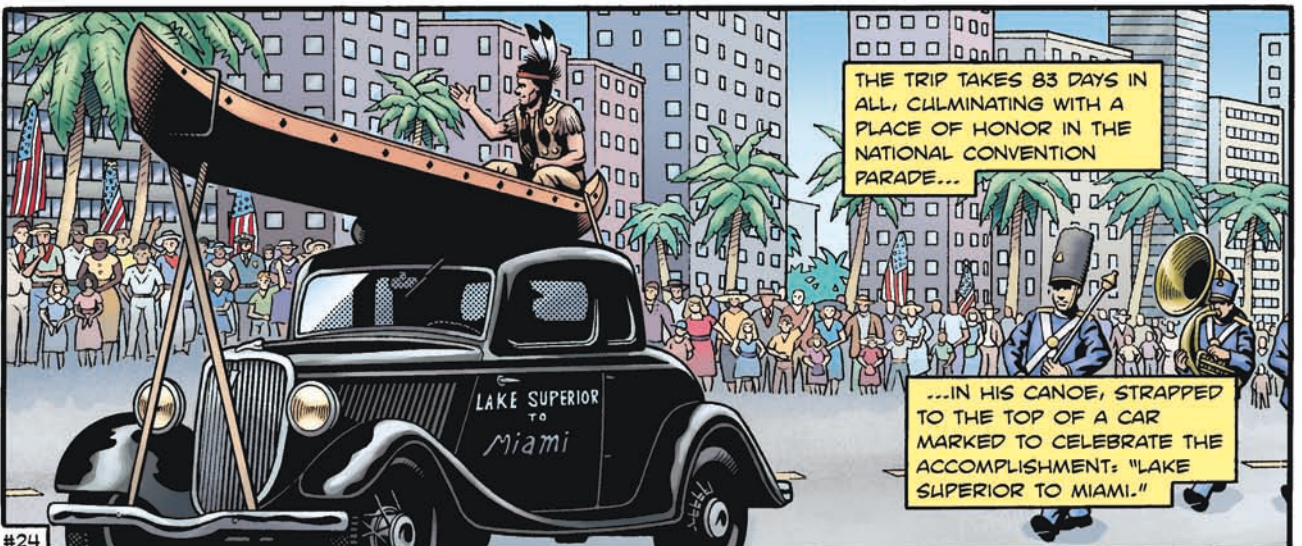
IN NORTHERN WISCONSIN, HE BEGINS WORKING AND RAISING A FAMILY WHEN HE IS CALLED TO ARMS. HE FIGHTS IN FRANCE WHERE HE SURVIVES AN ENEMY GAS ATTACK.



FOLLOWING THE WAR, GORDON BECOMES AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 49 IN BAYFIELD AND SERVES EIGHT YEARS AS COMMANDER. LIKE SOME 40,000 OTHER VETERANS THAT YEAR, HE MAKES PLANS TO ATTEND THE 16TH NATIONAL CONVENTION. HIS PLANS, HOWEVER, ARE LIKE NO OTHERS.



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Post 899 Commander Al Herdklotz, right, works with Izzy He and her nonprofit Teens for Veterans to conduct post activities. Photo by Henry Howard

HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

A STRONGER BOND

Teens celebrate veterans through service, music and support.

Isabella “Izzy” He remembers learning respect for the U.S. flag during a Flag Day ceremony by Rayson-Miller American Legion Post 899 at her middle school in Pittsford, N.Y.

“It was such an honor to see firsthand the people who have served our nation and our flag,” says Izzy, the daughter of first-generation Americans. “The experience made me proud of everything they have done. I wanted to take action to show my deep respect for our veterans.”

Izzy was inspired to help catalog Post 899’s 100-year history, create a nonprofit organization called Teens for Veterans, and orchestrate the virtual Concert for Veterans.

Three summers ago, she founded Teens for Veterans as a way to support members of Post 899. The group helps place flags on patriotic holidays, fundraises for the post and performs music for the residents at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center.

“Without their help, I don’t know how we could pull it off,” says Al Herdklotz, commander of the 101-member Post 899. “All I have to do is ask and they are there participating. It gives me pride in seeing our younger generation stepping forward to honor the people who have made this country what it is.”

Often Herdklotz doesn’t even have to ask. At the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, Teens for Veterans purchased 100 surgical masks and produced 20 cloth ones for post members. “That was really unexpected. They did it on their own.”

That same initiative led Izzy to organize a virtual concert.

Usually the teens perform for residents at the VA hospital on patriotic holidays, but the pandemic forced a cancellation of this year’s Memorial Day event. So Izzy improvised.

“I kept thinking about the patients there who don’t have family in the area,” she says. “I was inspired to do a virtual concert for them.”

Izzy, a senior at Pittsford Mendon High School, reached out to her classmates and the nearby Eastman School of Music. The 11 musicians recorded their own performances at home,

and another student compiled them into a 40-minute piece that they sent to the Canandaigua VA for veterans to watch.

“It was great to know that even though we are self-isolating, we are connecting with music,” Izzy says. “I just wanted them to know we were thinking of them.”

During the Concert for Veterans, Izzy played Bach’s “Partita No. 3 in E major” on her violin. “Even though the world was – and is – in a dark place, I wanted to focus on an uplifting melody and spread happiness through music,” she says.

Margaret “Meg” Pardee, a pianist, played Albert Pieczonka’s “Tarantella,” a flashy, upbeat piece. “I thought it would make people happy because it is so lively.”

An active volunteer with Teens for Veterans, Meg says that other than her grandfather, her family does not have military experience. “It’s been interesting to meet all these people who served our country,” she says.

While volunteering, the teens have grown in their leadership and other skills.

“This has been a great experience,” Izzy says. “I was able to start small and grow my organization. Sometimes it was hard to proceed because there was no guidebook. I was lucky to have a lot of support from Al and the other veterans here.”

Though she will head to college next year, Izzy plans to expand Teens for Veterans. She’s been contacted by youth in California and Wisconsin who want to start local chapters.

“It would definitely strengthen the bond between the veterans community and my generation,” she says. “The Teens for Veterans mission is to advocate and support for veterans. This is a mission that can be applied anytime and anywhere. We will always carry this belief.”

– Henry Howard

Watch the Teens for Veterans Virtual Concert:

 [youtube.com/watch?v=kw4kaMJxvjw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kw4kaMJxvjw)



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MEMORIAM

Longtime NJA Onderdonk ‘loved the Legion’

Philip B. Onderdonk Jr., who served 35 years as American Legion national judge advocate, died June 1 after battling cancer. He was 77.

A Vietnam War Army veteran and member of American Legion Post 183 in Parkville, Md., Onderdonk retired in 2018 from the position he had held since 1983. He was the eighth national judge advocate in the organization's history and the longest-serving constitutional officer.

As chief legal counsel for The American Legion, Onderdonk ensured that the organization's national constitution and bylaws were upheld; its emblem was protected; national meetings were properly conducted; contracts and media releases were reviewed for legal compliance; and friend-of-the-court – *amicus curiae* – briefs were filed in support of positions, policies and resolutions from the nation's largest organization of wartime veterans.

Onderdonk's work to protect military and veterans memorials and monuments that contain religious symbols was nationally recognized in 2015. That year, at the 97th American Legion National Convention in Baltimore, Liberty Legal Institute presented him with the first Philip B. Onderdonk Jr. Religious Freedom Award.

"This award is for those that have given sacrifice and had success in defending what our founders called our first freedom: religious freedom," Liberty Legal Institute President and CEO Kelly Shackelford said at the time "(Onderdonk) has been instrumental in leadership and what The American



Legion has done in standing to defend attacks against veterans memorials across our country."

During his tenure, Onderdonk was also deeply involved with legislation that created the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals in 1988, giving veterans judicial recourse to dispute VA disability claims decisions.

National American Legion officers and staff who worked with Onderdonk remember him for his civility, legal knowledge, devotion to The American Legion, and wit.

"Phil was a friend who would do anything in the world to help you when needed," National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler said. "He was loyal, loved The American Legion, and was a kind and gentle man. He had a great sense of humor and loved telling the same jokes over and over. It was part of his charm. I will miss him."

Kevin J. Bartlett was appointed national judge advocate on Jan. 1, 2018, to succeed Onderdonk.

"On June 1, The American Legion lost a great man who I was fortunate enough to call my colleague and friend," Bartlett said. "From the first time we met in 2002 until the last time we talked, we had numerous conversations, debates and discussions regarding so many legal issues. I will miss him and those talks."

At the time he announced his retirement, Onderdonk reflected on his time at American Legion National Headquarters. That interview and video can be viewed on legion.org.

HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE

Read, share World War II stories on Legiontown

As the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II nears, the popular American Legion website Legiontown has a special category for the stories of those who fought it.

"My WWII Story" can be populated with stories directly from the veterans or their families, or (with permission) those collected by Legionnaires and posts using the "Our WWII Story" media kit on the Legion's history site, legion.org/centennial/resources. Tips for capturing the firsthand remembrances of Legionnaires who served in the war are included, as well as ideas to honor post namesakes, area memorials and homefront activities. Include an American Legion Family connection if possible.

Right now on Legiontown, you can read:

- The story of a drawing made of a veteran while a prisoner at Stalag VII A.

- How a Mississippi post honored its World War II veterans.
- The service stories of five brothers.
- How different service branches handled the question of "souvenirs."
- How one young man went from a foster child to a GI.
- Air service in the Himalayas.
- How New Mexico "won WWII."
- The successful – and lucky – "Hell's Angels" B-17.
- When a mailman flew in a bomber.
- A POW's story from the Pacific theater.
- The downside of blind loyalty.
- A remembrance of D-Day.

Some entries may be included in the September issue of *The American Legion Magazine*, which will focus on the war and its aftermath.

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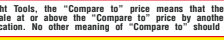
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General Marshall Equestrian Statue



Shaner & Guffy Honor Roll Memorial



Archie Mathies Gold Star Memorial

HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

‘Nothing to it but to do it’

Now in its third year, The American Legion’s Memorial Database continues to identify, collect and document veterans monuments and memorials all over the world. Contributors to the project range from American Legion Riders and Legion College graduates to local historians, but most are individuals who have a passion for preserving history.

To date, the database’s top contributor is Robert Domenick, historian and chaplain for Sons of The American Legion Squadron 344 in Jeannette, Pa. Since 2017, Domenick has submitted 360 of Pennsylvania’s 509 listed memorials. He recently spoke with *The American Legion Magazine* about his ongoing search for local memorials.



Robert Domenick

Of the memorials you’ve documented, which do you think are most unique?

The Archie Mathies Gold Star Memorial in Library, Pa., is for a Medal of Honor recipient. Mathies served on a B-17 in World War II. He was not a pilot, but their plane was shot up and the pilot was injured. Mathies took control and flew hundreds of miles back to England. He was ordered to bail and leave the pilot, but he wouldn’t do it. On his third attempt to land the plane, it wrecked, and he was killed.

Another unique memorial I sent recently is the General Marshall Equestrian Statue in Uniontown, a life-size statue of George Marshall on his horse with his dog. That was different.

When did you hear about the memorial project?

I received an email from the Legion in 2017 saying it was building a national database of memorials. One of our core things as chaplain is to remember our former members and associations in all wars. That’s in our preamble. I thought it would be a great project, so I went out and found about six memorials located around the city of Jeannette. The first one I submitted is right in my neighborhood on the south end of town, in Lincoln Heights. I thought, “Let’s keep doing it,” and I’ve never stopped.

How do you locate memorials?

I just look in areas I haven’t been. Some I submit are big ones with development money from the state, where they hired architects and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, but some are small places that placed a monument or had a stone donated. It’s important they be preserved and there for future generations.

In what unusual places have you found memorials?

Guffy and Shaner were little coal-mining towns that don’t exist anymore. They were washed away by floods in the 1950s. But their monument was on higher ground and is still there. Another one is in our courthouse, in sort of an attorney’s lounge. They put up an honor roll list of all the members of the Westmoreland County Bar Association who served in World War I, 28 lawyers out of 105 or 110 people.

When did you join the SAL?

Back in 2009 or 2010, I took my mom to a concert at the Legion hall in Jeannette, and there was this photo of the charter members of the Sons of The American Legion squadron. I had never heard of the SAL but found out I could join, as my dad was a veteran and my mom’s father was a World War I veteran. My dad was in the submarine service, and was in basic training when World War II ended. He was assigned to the Pacific fleet, USS *Cabazon*. My maternal grandfather also served in the Navy on an armed merchant ship, USS *Sudbury*. He was a gunner’s mate. My father and grandfather were members of Post 344.

What advice would you give to people interested in submitting memorials?

Do it. You might enjoy it. It’s fun. Even if you just cover your community or your county, America is a big place and has lots of memorials. Take pictures from different angles. There’s nothing to it but to do it.

— Julie Campbell

JOIN THE SEARCH

The American Legion’s Memorial Database contains more than 2,800 memorials from all 50 states and more than a dozen foreign countries. Search by location or keyword, and learn how to upload photos and other information about local memorials. legion.org/memorials

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CAREERS



Tips for writing powerful federal résumés

Despite the upheaval caused by COVID-19, the federal government is still hiring. In fact, many federal agencies are hiring a lot of people to meet new needs as a result of

the pandemic. Others are restructuring and, although the jobs may be fewer, they are still hiring.

To create a résumé that will get noticed and not passed over, it is critical that you follow these 10 tips:

- **Keep your résumé to five pages.** Unlike typical two-page civilian résumés, your federal résumé can be much longer, which is great for sharing more information about your career, skills and accomplishments.
- **Use 11-point type size for ease in readability, 1-inch margins and page numbers.** Do not include headers or footers, which are not easily read by technology.
- **Add keywords to your résumé from the announcement, and be certain to capitalize them so they aren't overlooked.** It is critical for recruiters to find those keywords in your résumé.
- **If the job announcement includes core competencies desired or required, integrate them into your résumé.** Include them in your work history and/or education.
- **If you are applying for a job that requires technical skills, add them to the top of your résumé.** Put these before your work history.
- **Add numbers to your job descriptions to be more specific.** This might include budgets, dollar value of contracts, percentages of improvement in various job functions, number of people you supervise, size of a facility, logistical statistics or anything else that's quantifiable.
- **Emphasize the most recent 10 years of your work experience.** Be more succinct about the previous 10.
- **If you have more than 20 years of experience, add a previous career highlights section.** Briefly summarize that information, especially if that experience is related to what you're currently targeting or impressive for what you achieved.
- **Do not include jobs that were short-term or not relevant.** HR specialists do not require every single job to be in your federal résumé.
- **Use USAJOBS' career builder to create your résumé, but copy it out of the builder and put it into a Word format.** Fix the format for readability and organization of the sections, and then submit with the upload system on the website.

Federal jobs abound. Your only challenge is to prepare an outstanding federal résumé, and find the right opportunity.

Wendy Enelow is a master résumé writer and author of "Expert Résumé & LinkedIn Profiles for Managers & Executives" and other titles. wendy@wendyenelow.com



LAW

COVID-19 in the courts

"Hundreds of lawsuits stemming from the coronavirus pandemic are rapidly amassing in state and federal courts," the *San Francisco Gate* reports. At least 771 suits related to COVID-19 have been filed, targeting hospitals, assisted-living facilities, yoga studios, ski lodges, airlines, cruise lines, fitness facilities and the entertainment industry.

Congress is mulling legislation providing for special COVID-19 liability protection. The response to COVID-19, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has said, "must not be slowed, weakened or exploited to set up the biggest trial lawyer bonanza in history."

EDUCATION

Chapter 35 benefits and surviving spouses



Q: *I am 73 and recently widowed. I have not been in the workforce for most of my adult life. Now I am interested in becoming certified as a life coach. I have a limited income and would like to obtain my Chapter 35 Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance benefits for my coaching program. What are the criteria?*

A: First, you must complete the benefits application at **ebenefits**.

va.gov. Once you submit an application, VA will email you a certificate of eligibility (COE). Take that certificate to your school of choice, and school officials will submit the correct documents to VA to establish your education benefits.

To be eligible for Chapter 35 benefits, your spouse must have been permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability, or died while on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability. Once that has been determined and you are approved, you will have 10 years to use your education benefits. VA will provide you with a current monthly allowance of \$1,248 if you attend school full time. With that monthly allowance you must pay your tuition, fees and books.

Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Apache Junction, Ariz. askvalerie@legion.org

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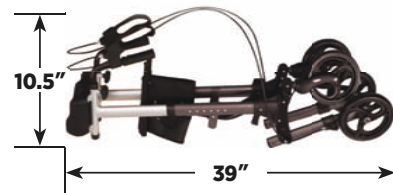
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It's a cruel fact of life, as we age, gravity takes over. Our muscles droop, our bodies sag and the weight of the world seems to be planted squarely on our shoulders. We dread taking a fall, so we find ourselves walking less and less- and that only makes matters worse.

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Traditional rollators and walkers simply aren't designed well. They require you to hunch over and shuffle your feet when you walk. This puts pressure on your back, your neck, your wrists and your hands. Over time, this makes walking uncomfortable and can result in a variety of health issues. That's all changed with the Perfect Walker. Its upright design and padded elbow rests enable you to distribute your weight across your arms and shoulders, not your hands and wrists. Helps reduce back, neck and wrist pain and discomfort. Its unique frame gives you plenty of room to step, and the oversized wheels help you glide across the floor. The height can be easily adjusted with the push of a button to fit anyone from 5' to over 6'. Once you've reached your destination you can use the hand brakes to gently slow down, and there's even a handy seat with a storage compartment. Its sleek, lightweight design makes it easy to use indoors and out and it folds up for portability and storage.



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Photo by Stephen Holt

MEMORIAM

Utah's Christoffersen remembered as tireless American Legion advocate

William Christoffersen, a World War II Army infantryman who served as Utah's National Executive Committeeman for nearly 50 years, died May 31 at the Salt Lake City veterans home that bears his name. He was 93.

Christoffersen was a member of The American Legion for 75 years. He held numerous national and department offices, including serving as a member of the Legion's National Executive Committee from 1963 to 1973 and again from 1975 to 2013.

"He was a tireless advocate for The American Legion," said Utah NEC member Terry Schow, citing Christoffersen's role in creating the state's first veterans home. "He was involved in much of what we have done in Utah."

In 2013, that home – adjacent to the George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center – was renamed the William E. Christoffersen Salt Lake Veterans Home.

At the ceremony, Christoffersen said getting a veterans home built was a project that spanned from his year as department commander in 1959 through his years as Utah's National Executive Committeeman.

"This was an uphill battle, but we got it done," he said. "It takes all of us to make something like this happen. It wasn't up to one person. It was up to everyone."

In August 2013, Christoffersen, a member of Holladay American Legion Post 71 in Salt Lake City, received an honorary plaque and recognition by then-National Commander James Koutz at the national convention.

After he retired from the NEC, Christoffersen's heart remained with The American Legion. "He was all apologies: 'I'm so sorry, Terry. I wish I could do more,'" Schow recalled him saying. "He's in his 90s and given more than 50 years to the Legion, but he apologizes because he can't do more."

Schow credits Christoffersen with being a trusted mentor, adviser and friend. "He was a living legend, a great man," said Schow, who served as an alternate to Christoffersen's NECman. "He was a great example to us."

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Rabbis return to German chaplaincy

For the first time since the 1930s, rabbis can serve as military chaplains in the German army. Germany's legislature, the Bundestag, voted unanimously to approve the change, the *Times of Israel* reports. According to German defense officials, "The first clergymen are expected to begin their ministry this autumn ... Later, up to 10 pastoral workers of the Jewish faith are to serve in the German armed forces."

There are 300 Jewish soldiers currently serving in the German army. Some 12,000 Jewish soldiers died fighting for Germany during World War I, long before the Nazis took power.

BENEFITS

Last Civil War pensioner dies

The last person to receive a pension from the Civil War died May 31. Irene Triplett, 90, received \$877.56 each year – \$73.13 per month – from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"The jaw-dropping fact that someone in the year 2020 was still earning a Civil War pension was the result of two factors," according to the *Washington Post*. "First, Triplett suffered cognitive impairments, qualifying her for the lifelong pension as a helpless adult child of a veteran. Second, her father, Mose Triplett, who'd served as a private in the Confederate Army before defecting to the Union, was on his second marriage when she was born in 1930. He was just a few weeks away from turning 84."

Mose Triplett joined the Confederate army in 1862, serving in a North Carolina regiment. He defected to the Union in June 1863, after contracting a fever and being admitted to a hospital in Danville, Va. The *Post* points out that his switch to the Union side was fortunate timing. Barely a week after defecting, 734 of the 800 men in his former Confederate regiment died at the Battle of Gettysburg.

The *Post* notes that there are 33 spouses and 18 children who still receive VA benefits related to the Spanish-American War, fought in 1898.



Civil War veteran Moses "Mose" Triplett, second from right, is pictured with his first wife, Mary, at left. After Mary's death in the 1920s, Triplett married Elida Hall, 50 years his junior.

Photo courtesy AARP

PERSONAL FINANCE



Seven habits to carry forward from the pandemic

FOCUS ON FINANCES



J.J. MONTANARO

Months after it erupted, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to change our lives and economy. At this point, the idea of “back to normal” seems like a pipe dream. Still, we make strides toward a “new normal.”

From a financial perspective, it is an understatement to say things have been tough. But it hasn't been all

bad. The other night as my family gathered in the kitchen, chatting and preparing dinner – a significantly larger part of our routine than during pre-pandemic times – I realized that some of the coping mechanisms we've adopted might serve us well going forward.

You probably have your own list, but here are several habits I've identified that may have staying power:

- **Meticulously scrutinizing expenses.** With all the uncertainty, “budget” has quickly gone from a noun to a verb in households across the country. Holding off on unnecessary purchases and re-examining everyday spending has become the rule, not the exception. The Bureau of Economic Analysis reports our personal savings rate on a monthly basis and, as I write, the latest number is 13.4 percent – as high as it has been since 1954.
- **Faithfully funding cash accounts.** Regularly contributing to a cash account or emergency fund requires disciplined hard work. But in times of crisis, having cash on hand offers much-needed flexibility and peace of mind.
- **Being deliberate.** A lot of folks I've spoken with are taking a more thoughtful approach to their finances. These conversations ranged from individuals carefully weighing the timing of military separation to couples totally reassessing their priorities and goals. Too often the fast-paced nature of our lives makes it difficult for us to be intentional about our plans and priorities. But if we can

carve out time to discuss our goals and re-evaluate our progress, we'll feel certain that we're on the right track.

▪ **Creating a solid plan.** This is more aspirational than a pandemic-created habit, but have you questioned, created or updated your plans during the pandemic? With time on our hands, changing circumstances and a lot more togetherness, many people could have cordoned off time to assess their finances from top to bottom: goals, assets, liabilities, income, expenses, insurance, retirement and estate planning. These are all intertwined and should be tied together by a comprehensive plan.

▪ **Transitioning from overwhelmed to empowered.** At some point during this process, I started to practice what I've preached to my children as they've grown up: Exert the vast majority of your energy and efforts on what you can truly control, and let the rest be what it will be. Although it may not seem so, there is a lot that you can control, and that's where you should put your financial focus.

▪ **Building a consistent routine.** I've been blessed to be able to work from home throughout the pandemic. If that's your situation, you probably have a solid routine. Translating that approach to your finances by consistently saving, monitoring and conducting periodic reviews can be a real positive. That's one reason why the “pay yourself first” mantra has been around so long. It's a routine, and it works.

▪ **Staying positive.** More than a habit, keeping a positive outlook pays dividends for you and those around you. Though we never know what the future holds, if we can stay positive in the present we're likely to experience physical and emotional health benefits – two good things to carry into our new normal.

J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. Submit questions for him online.

legion.org/usaa/focusonfinances

POLICY

Flattening the regulatory curve

The nonprofit policy group Americans for Tax Reform reports that federal and state agencies waived or suspended at least 645 regulations in the wake of COVID-19, affecting everything from usage of plastic bags at grocery stores and the sale of alcoholic beverages to the renewal of driver's licenses and the credentialing of health-care workers. To see the full list, visit atr.org/rules?amp.

VERBATIM

We can't telecommute to combat. Our troops need to be ready to go.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, on the Army's need for preparedness even as coronavirus continues to spread

Source: The Wall Street Journal

Photo by Jose Rodriguez
U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence



How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280, e-mail reunions@legion.org or submit information via our website, www.legion.org/reunions.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing only once a year.**

Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life

memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.** Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.** Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES

28th OMS B-52, Keystone, SD, 9/2-4, Kevin Reagan, kevin@airwarriorcoffee.com; **Nav Class 72-16**, Colorado Springs, CO, 6/7-11, Lloyd Froelich, (651) 895-9715, lloydfroelich@icloud.com

ARMY

8th Armd Div, Herndon, VA, 5/14-16, Anthony Waskie, (215) 423-3930, awaski01@gmail.com; **8th Cbt Avn Bn (Finthen Army Airfield, Germany)**, Helen, GA, 10/3-4, Joe King, (336) 382-3549, skypilot1118@yahoo.com; **44th Eng Bn**, St Charles, MO, 9/16-19, Rex Hurd, (816) 752-8302, rhurd55@yahoo.com; **87th Eng Bn**, Branson, MO, 10/3-11, Stephanie Lindner, (417) 333-4048, stephanie@gatheringsplus.com

MARINES

Hotel 2/7 Vietnam Vets (1965-1970), Jacksonville, FL, 6/24-27, Steve Cone, (843) 424-8279, scone1948@yahoo.com

NAVY

Badger DE/FF 1071, Long Beach, CA, 10/7-11, Rick Estrada, ricke310@hotmail.com; **Cogswell DD 651 & Wedderburn DD 684**, Bellevue, WA, 6/7-9, George Overman, (760) 889-2216, secretary@usscogswell.com; **Franklin D. Roosevelt CVB/CVA/CV 42 & Sqdns**, Jacksonville, FL, 11/11-14, Bill Solt, (321) 362-5806, sisbill@aol.com; **John Young DD 973**, Houston, 6/10-13, Michael Trotta, (727) 505-4222, reunion@dd973.org; **Lexington CV 16 Assn**, Omaha, NE, 9/28-10/1, Gary Shorrel,

(715) 828-5320, shorrel@charter.net; **MCB 1, 9 & 10**, Gulfport, MS, 10/15-18, Peter Dowd, (781) 837-0393, seabeemcb1@yahoo.com; **Nat'l Assn of Naval Photography**, Pensacola, FL, 10/15-17, Sammy Solt, (757) 714-9344, nanppres@gmail.com; **Shangri-La CVS 38**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/28-11/1, Al Miller, (610) 588-0422, shangair@yahoo.com; **Towers DDG 9**, Louisville, KY, 9/29-10/4, Raymond Wong, (415) 601-6285, usstowersddg9@pacbell.net

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Post 34, FL: Robert Rose
Post 1060, NY: Andrew Affrunti, William F. Belin Jr., Joseph Bruzese, Larr Fritcher, Richard Hyman, Joseph L. Phillips, Steve Placanica, Raymond Somerville

IN SEARCH OF

3rd Plt 501st MP (Bamberg, Germany), 30-Year Gulf War Reunion, Robert Howard, 407-412-1443, rehoward305@yahoo.com
66th Finance Co (Fort Campbell, KY, 1968-1969), Randy Lorenz, (906) 774-7788, carolorenz48@hotmail.com
536th MP Co (Grafenwoehr, Germany, 1984-1985), Christopher Gilfillan, (401) 575-8699, opsgt115@gmail.com
A Btry 33rd Arty 1st Inf Div (Lai Khe, Vietnam, 1965-1967), Larry Holland, (910) 326-8808, lwholland@ec.rr.com
Charlie Co 5th Bn 46th Inf 198th LIB American Div (Apr-July 1970), Arlyn Perkey, (843) 349-0676, aperkey@comcast.net
Class 67-4 Nuclear Power School (NTC Bainbridge, MD, Oct 1967-Apr 1968), John Handel, (815) 483-8548, jmhandel220@att.net
Co 86-233 22nd Div (NRTC Great Lakes, IL, 1986), J.M. Rivers, (601) 527-3242, kcsaws@aol.com
Co 93 (NTC Great Lakes, IL, Feb-Apr 1966), John Handel, (815) 483-8548, jmhandel220@att.net
Co 374 (NTC Great Lakes, IL, Aug-Oct 1965), Ed Blumberg, fearlessfrog48@gmail.com
Freedom Hill (Da Nang, Vietnam, June 1969-Mar 1970), John Laurin, (281) 546-1222
HQ & HQ Det 8th Log Cmd (Camp Darby, Livorno, Italy, 1964-1966), Anthony Bassano, (408) 295-1634, (408) 642-0135 cell, abassano@sbcglobal.net
HQ 16th SAC "Broken Arrow" (Palomares, Spain, Jan-Apr 1966), Vic Skaar, (702) 576-3097, v.03.sp66@att.net
NAS Norfolk AMD Div, All Rates (1966-1968), Ed Blumberg, fearlessfrog48@gmail.com
NAS Port Lyautey, French Morocco (1953-1955), Ed Clayton, (386) 299-7485, pono3006@aol.com
Naval Hosp School Hosp Corpsmen (Great Lakes, IL, Dec 1986), J.M. Rivers, (601) 527-3242, kcsaws@aol.com

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Pits 3036, 3037 & 3038 – Mbrs & Drill Instructors (Parris Island, SC, Feb 1971), Tom Marquart, (201) 394 2340, tmarqu5919@aol.com
Sailfish SSR 572 (1956-1965), Frank Dorchak, (518) 483-6272, ss572dbf@gmail.com

TAPS

William E. Christoffersen, Dept. of Utah.
 Dept Cmdr. 1959-1960, Nat'l Reorganization Cmte. Memb. 1967-1972, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1963-1964, Nat'l Citizen's Flag Alliance Dept. Chmn. 1994-1999, Nat'l Conv. Cmsn. Ex-Officio Memb. 1984-1985, Nat'l Child Welfare Foundation Memb. 1965-1968 and 1973-1974, Nat'l Child Welfare Foundation Treasurer 1968-1970, Nat'l Child Welfare Foundation President 1970-1973, Nat'l Veterans Employment & Education Commission Liaison Cmte. Chmn. 1977-2013, Nat'l Veterans Employment & Education Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1975-1977, Nat'l Employment & Veterans Preference Cmte. Vice Chmn. 2013-2014, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1963-1973 and 1975-2013, Nat'l Citizen's Flag Alliance Advisory Cmte. Consultant 2012-2014, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1967-1973, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1957-1959, Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1966-1967, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1964-1966 and Nat'l Trophies, Awards, & Ceremonials Cmte. Memb. 1958-1962.

Hugh C. "Tony" Cumming, Dept. of Montana.
 Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Al. Memb. 1991-1993, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1995-1996, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1994-1995, Nat'l Aerospace Cmte. Memb. 1996-1999, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1993-1995, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Memb. 1978-1990 and 1999-2001, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1993-1994 and Nat'l Veterans Pref. Cmte. Memb. 1958-1959.

Kerwin "Pee Wee" Douthit, Dept. of South Dakota. Dept. Cmdr. 1994-1995.

Alvan T. Fuller, Dept. of Massachusetts. Dept. Cmdr. 1982-1983, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1985-1990, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1983-1984, Nat'l Emblem Cmte. Memb. 1995-2003, Nat'l Emblem Cmte. Vice Chmn. 2003-2005, Nat'l Emblem Cmte. Chmn 2005-2017, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Nat'l Cmdr.'s Rep. 1983-1984 and Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 2017-2020.

Donald D. Hildebrand, Dept. of Tennessee. Dept. Cmdr. 1972-1973, Nat'l Military Affairs Cmte. Chmn. 1977-1985 and Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Chmn. 1977.

Anthony Lori, Dept. of New Jersey. Dept. Cmdr. 1978-1979, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1982-1987, Nat'l Cmte. on Children & Youth Memb. 2013-2020, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Memb. 2005-2013, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 2 Chmn. 1989-1990, 1992-1993, 1995-1996, 1998-1999, 2001-2002 and 2004-2005, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 2 Vice Chmn. 1988-1989, 1991-1992, 1994-1995, 1997-

1998, 2000-2001 and 2003-2004, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 2 Memb. 1987-1988, 1990-1991, 1993-1994, 1996-1997, 1999-2000 and 2002-2003.

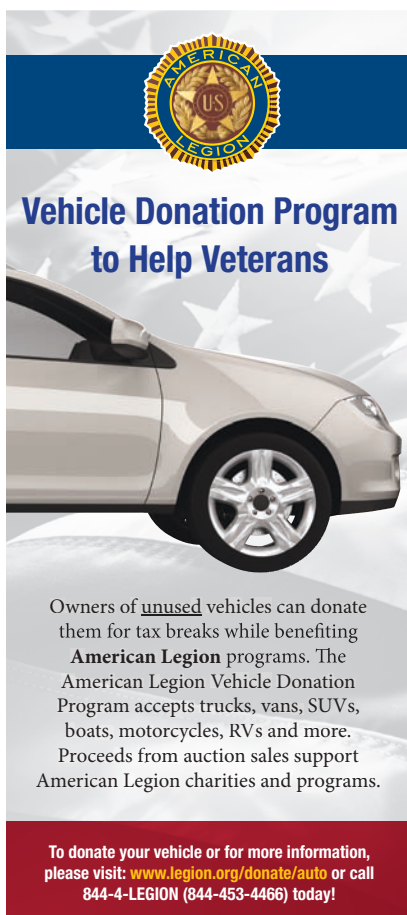
Philip B. Onderdonk Jr., Dept. of Maryland. Nat'l Judge Advocate 1983-2017 and Nat'l Citizens Flag Alliance Ex-Officio Memb. 1994-2017.

Donald R. Schroedl, Dept. of Minnesota. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1974-1975, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Memb. 1997-2001, Nat'l Conv. Cmsn. Ex-Officio Memb. 1994-1995, Nat'l Conv. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Chmn. 1989-1997, Nat'l Conv. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1975-1983, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1972-1975, 2001-2010 and 2011-2013, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Chmn. 2010-2011, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1975-1997, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 2013-2017 Nat'l Public

Relations Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Chmn. 1983-1989 and Nat'l Subcmte. on Cmtes. Memb. 1978-1989 and 1995-1997.

CANCELED REUNIONS

If your military reunion has been canceled, let us know by sending an email to **reunions@legion.org**. For a list of canceled reunions, go to **legion.org/reunions/canceled**.



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People who take care of chickens are literally chicken tenders.

A SPORTS REPORTER asked a football coach, "How's the team this year?"

"Awful," the coach replied. "Our players are so unfriendly they won't even talk to each other."

"Are they really that hostile?" the reporter asked.

"Yep. We can't even make our ends meet."

WHY is it hard for a communist to tell a joke? It's not funny until everyone gets it.

I GOT A NEW JOB last week as the top dog at Old MacDonald's farm. I'm the new C-I-E-I-O.

A MAN IS FLYING in a hot-air balloon and realizes he is lost. He descends a bit and spots a man below. He lowers the balloon farther and shouts, "Excuse me! Can you tell me where I am?"

The man below says, "Yes, you're in a hot-air balloon, hovering 30 feet above this field."

"You must be an engineer," says the balloonist.

"I am," replies the man. "How did you know?"

"Well, everything you've told me is technically correct, but it's no use to anyone."

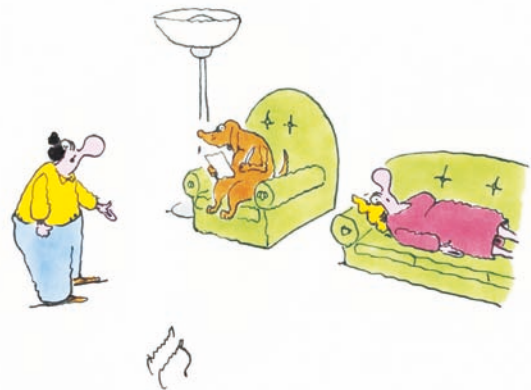
"You must be in management."

"I am, but how did you know?"

DID YOU HEAR about the marathoner who left his math homework at the starting line? He thought he could run away from his problems.



"Just more political posturing."



"How much is this emotional support animal costing us?"

AFTER ALL is said and done, more is said than done.

TWO NEIGHBORS are not on speaking terms. One gives the other a can of oil to use on his lawn mower when he starts to cut the grass early in the morning. The other sends it back to the first man, telling him to use it on his wife when she sings late at night.

WILL GLASS COFFINS be a success? Remains to be seen.

A LOCAL WEATHERMAN was so wrong in his predictions that he became the laughingstock of the city. So he went to his higher-ups and asked to be transferred to another station.

"Why do you want a transfer?" they asked.

"The climate doesn't agree with me."

"I DON'T KNOW much about grammar, but I think kale salad is what they call a 'double negative.'"

– Jim Gaffigan



"Honey, I can't sleep. Talk to me about your golf game again."

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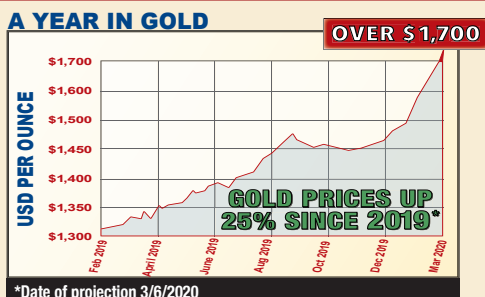


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